

J.T. KRUL | GIUSEPPE CAFARO | WES HARTMAN | ZEN



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Vol. 6

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

#1

OF 8
COVER A



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ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™

#1

OF 8
COVER B



TYLER KIRKHAM

Magic is flourishing in the world...
However, not all welcome it with open arms...
Many live in fear of what they do not understand...
Yet, some see opportunity, and have chosen to exploit it for their own personal gain...

ASPEN COMICS PRESENTS:

All New Soulfire

PART 1 of 8

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Zen

letters

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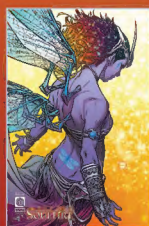
Mark Roslan, Peter Steigerwald, Gabe Carrasco —design & production



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Emerald City Comiccon 2017
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SOULFIRE CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER

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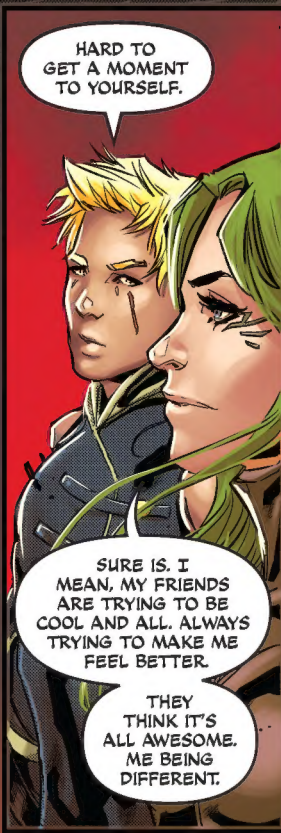
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FEELS GOOD TO GET AWAY, DON'T IT?

YEAH. CLEAR YOUR HEAD. TAKE A BREAK.



HARD TO GET A MOMENT TO YOURSELF.

SURE IS. I MEAN, MY FRIENDS ARE TRYING TO BE COOL AND ALL. ALWAYS TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.

THEY THINK IT'S ALL AWESOME. ME BEING DIFFERENT.



BUT, YOU DON'T BELIEVE THEM, DO YOU?

NOT REALLY.

I GET THAT. I SEE THE WAY THEY LOOK AT ME SOMETIMES. AND I KNOW THEY AREN'T THINKING ABOUT HOW COOL IT IS. THEY THINK I'M BIZARRE. LIKE A FREAK OR SOMETHING.



SCREW THEM. I'M NOT APOLOGIZING OR GOING OUT OF MY WAY TO MAKE THEM FEEL BETTER ABOUT IT. I WAS IN THE SCHOOL LOCKER ROOM, GETTING READY FOR PRACTICE, AND I JUST SHOWED THEM. SHOWED THEM ALL. LIKE - DEAL WITH IT.

SERIOUSLY? THEY MUST HAVE CRAPPED THEIR PANTS.

NAH.



THEY WEREN'T WEARING ANY.

HAHAHAHAHAHA!



JEEEEZ!

ATTENTION! THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA!

AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL
ONLY. YOU'RE
TRESPASSING!

LET'S GO,
GUYS!

RUN!

RUN...?

YOU
MEAN
FLY!

I LOVE
DOING
THAT.

SCARED 'EM
PRETTY GOOD. THEY
WEREN'T DOING NO
HARM.

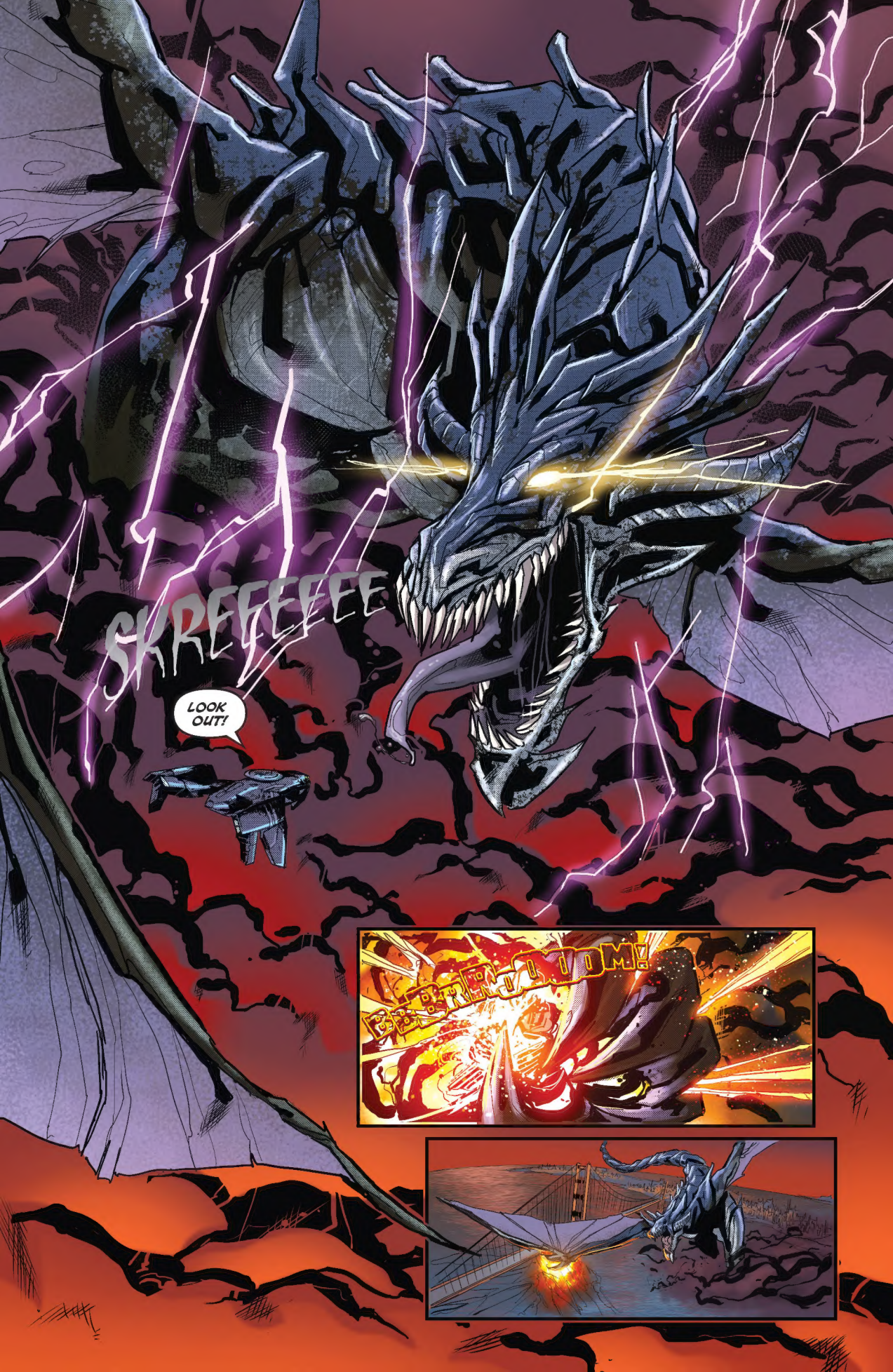
IT'S GOOD
FOR THEM. THIS NEW
GENERATION ALREADY
HAD A SENSE OF
ENTITLEMENT. NOW, SOME
GOT FRIGGIN WINGS
TO MAKE IT EVEN
WORSE.

THEY THINK
THE RULES DON'T
APPLY TO THEM.
PRECIOUS LITTLE
FLAPPERS.

HEY, YOU
SEEING THAT
UP AHEAD.

SENSORS
AREN'T REGISTERING
ANYTHING. COULD BE JUST
A LOW-LYING CLOUD
FORMATION.

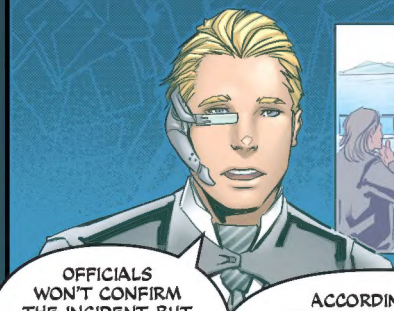
THAT'S
NOT A
CLOUD!



SKREEEEEEEE

LOOK
OUT!

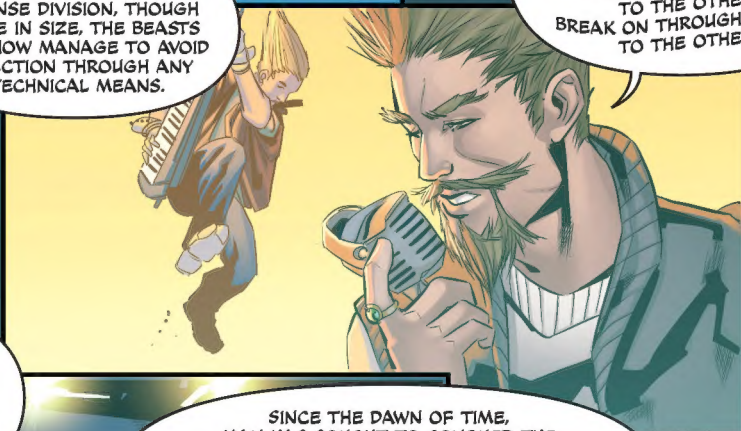




OFFICIALS WON'T CONFIRM THE INCIDENT, BUT EYEWITNESSES CLAIM TO HAVE SIGHTED THE DRAGON HEADING NORTH ACROSS THE BAY AFTER THE EXPLOSION.

ACCORDING TO SOURCES INSIDE THE DEFENSE DIVISION, THOUGH LARGE IN SIZE, THE BEASTS SOMEHOW MANAGE TO AVOID DETECTION THROUGH ANY TECHNICAL MEANS.

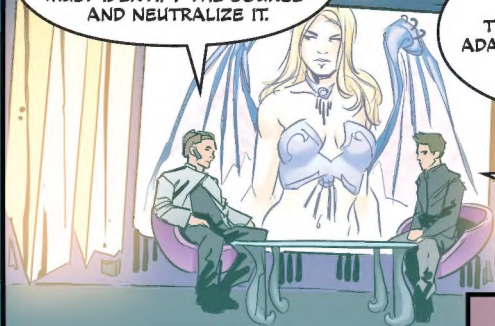
♪ YOU KNOW THE DAY DESTROYS THE NIGHT
NIGHT DIVIDES THE DAY
TRIED TO RUN
TRIED TO HIDE
BREAK ON THROUGH
TO THE OTHER SIDE
BREAK ON THROUGH
TO THE OTHER SIDE ♪



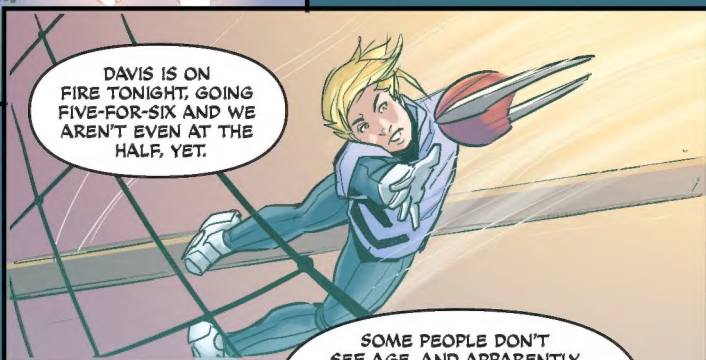
THERE IS NOTHING NATURAL ABOUT IT. CLEARLY, THESE GENETIC ABNORMALITIES ARE A RESULT OF CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, OR ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS. WE MUST IDENTIFY THE SOURCE AND NEUTRALIZE IT.

SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME, MAN HAS SOUGHT TO CONQUER THE SKIES. AND NOW, IT SEEMS WE HAVE ACHIEVED THAT DREAM THROUGH AN INCREDIBLE DISPLAY OF ADAPTATION THAT WOULD LEAVE DARWIN SPEECHLESS. AND YOUR REACTION IS NOT TO CELEBRATE THIS ADVANCEMENT, BUT SEEK TO SNUFF IT OUT OF EXISTENCE?

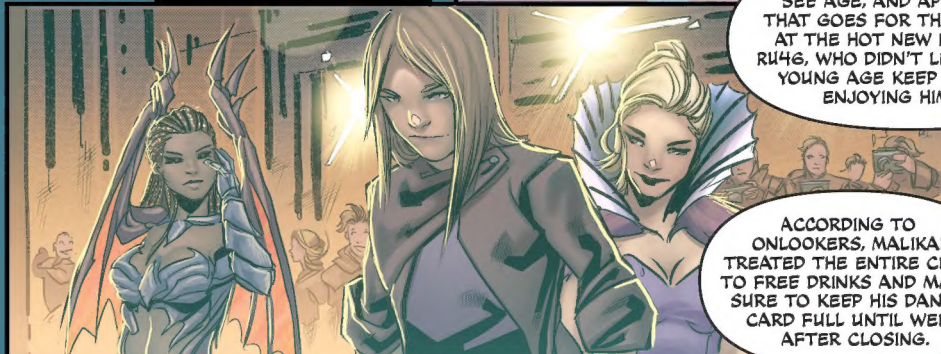
I SUPPOSE NEXT YOU WILL SPOUT THE RANTINGS OF THE RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS, WHO CLAIM THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE A SIGN OF SATAN HIMSELF.



DAVIS IS ON FIRE TONIGHT, GOING FIVE-FOR-SIX AND WE AREN'T EVEN AT THE HALF, YET.



SOME PEOPLE DON'T SEE AGE, AND APPARENTLY THAT GOES FOR THE DOORMEN AT THE HOT NEW NIGHTCLUB RUH6, WHO DIDN'T LET MALIKAI'S YOUNG AGE KEEP HIM FROM ENJOYING HIMSELF.



ACCORDING TO ONLOOKERS, MALIKAI TREATED THE ENTIRE CLUB TO FREE DRINKS AND MADE SURE TO KEEP HIS DANCE CARD FULL UNTIL WELL AFTER CLOSING.

HEY, PJ - CHECK IT OUT.



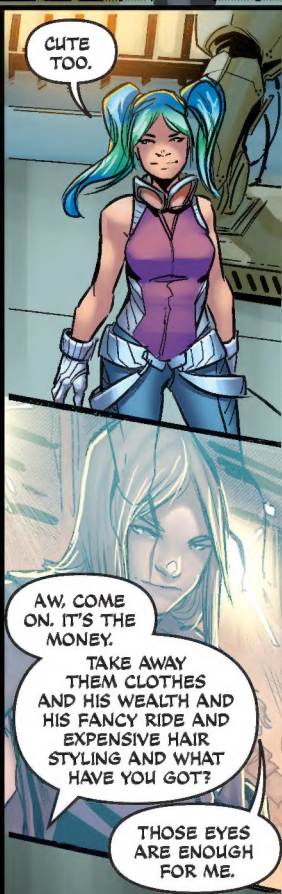
ISN'T THAT THE KID THAT GAVE YOU HIS VIDEO GAME CREDDS?

SON OF A GUN... YEAH. I KNEW HE LOOKED FAMILIAR. IT WAS MALIKAI? LOOK AT THAT, SONIA. WE WERE IN THE PRESENCE OF GREATNESS AND DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT.

GUESS HIM GIVING YOU HIS CREDDS REALLY WAS JUST A TOKEN.



FOR SURE. SHOULD HAVE HAD HIM BUY ME THE WHOLE DAMN ARCADE. THAT GUY IS LOADED.



CUTE TOO.

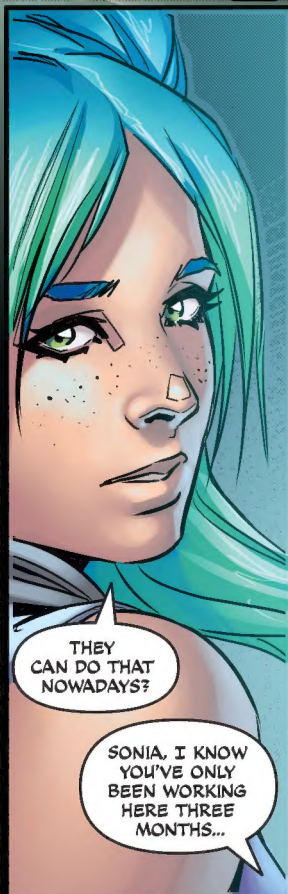
AW, COME ON. IT'S THE MONEY.

TAKE AWAY THEM CLOTHES AND HIS WEALTH AND HIS FANCY RIDE AND EXPENSIVE HAIR STYLING AND WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?

THOSE EYES ARE ENOUGH FOR ME.



SHOOT. THEY'RE PROBABLY FAKE, TOO. BEST MONEY CAN BUY.

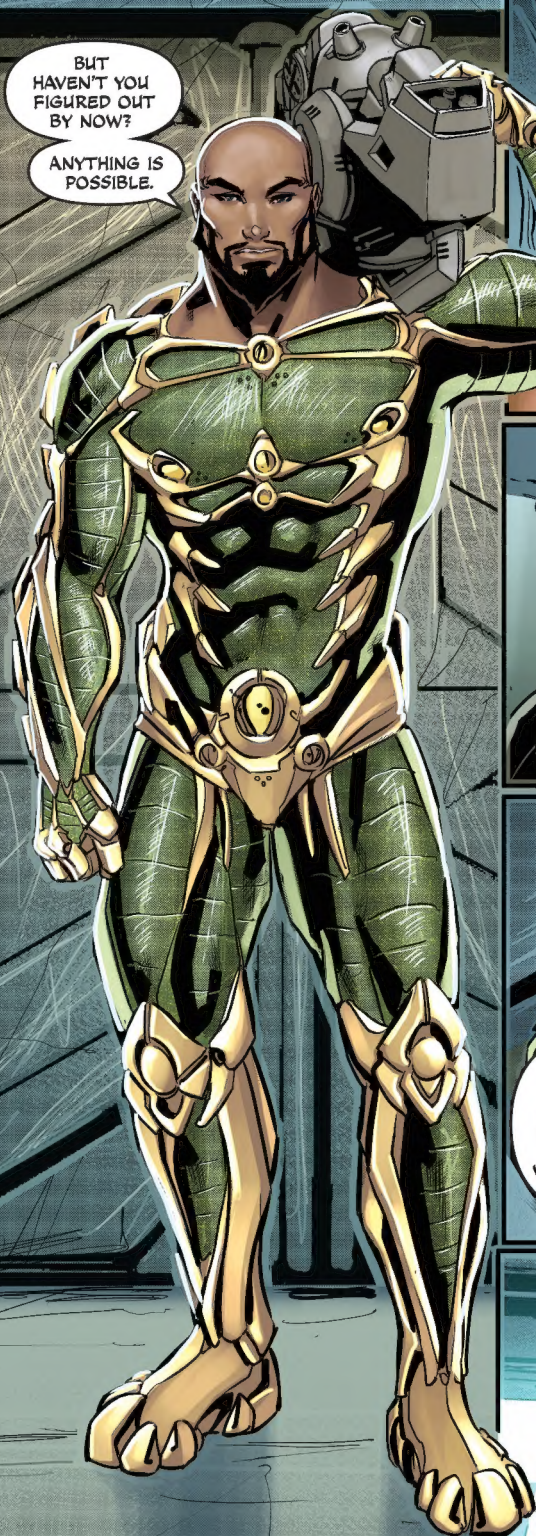


THEY CAN DO THAT NOWADAYS?

SONIA, I KNOW YOU'VE ONLY BEEN WORKING HERE THREE MONTHS...

BUT
HAVEN'T YOU
FIGURED OUT
BY NOW?

ANYTHING IS
POSSIBLE.



YO, BENOIST,
I'M JUST ABOUT
FINISHED REALIGNING
THE DUAL-COUPLING
ON THIS BAD BOY.

THAT'S GREAT, PJ - BUT
THE PROBLEM WAS
THE INVERTER
GAUGE.

DANG. SUPPOSE
I SHOULD UNDO
WHAT I DID, HUH?

NOT
NECESSARILY.
WE'LL JUST ASK
THE CUSTOMER IF
THEY LIKE THINGS
THAT BLOW UP IN
THEIR FACE.

SO,
THAT'S A
YES THEN?

GOT THIS
FOR A SONG
OF WILLIE AT THE
HARBOR YARD. THE
PLASMA-BATTERIES
INSIDE ALONE ARE
WORTH MORE THAN
I PAID FOR IT.

SORRY
TO TEAR YOU
AWAY FROM YOUR
BOY ON THE
SCREEN.

WE RAN INTO
HIM THE OTHER
DAY, YOU KNOW? AT
THE ARCADE. GAVE PJ
SOME FREE CRED\$
ON HIS WAY OUT.
SEEMED NICE
ENOUGH.

EASY BEING NICE WHEN YOU'RE
BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON
IN YOUR MOUTH.

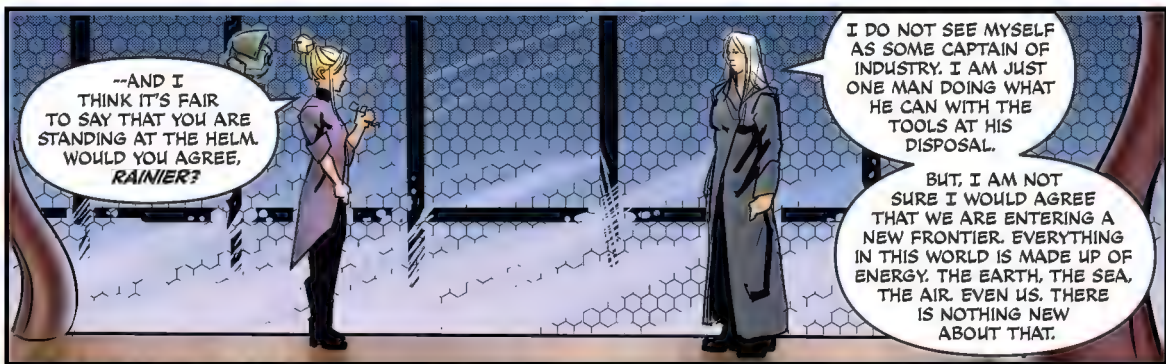
HE WASN'T.
MALIKAI ISN'T RAINIER'S
SON. HE ADOPTED HIM.
PLUCKED HIM OUT OF
AN ORPHANAGE.

EVEN
LUCKIER
THEN...



KID WON THE GOLDEN
TICKET OF LIFE.

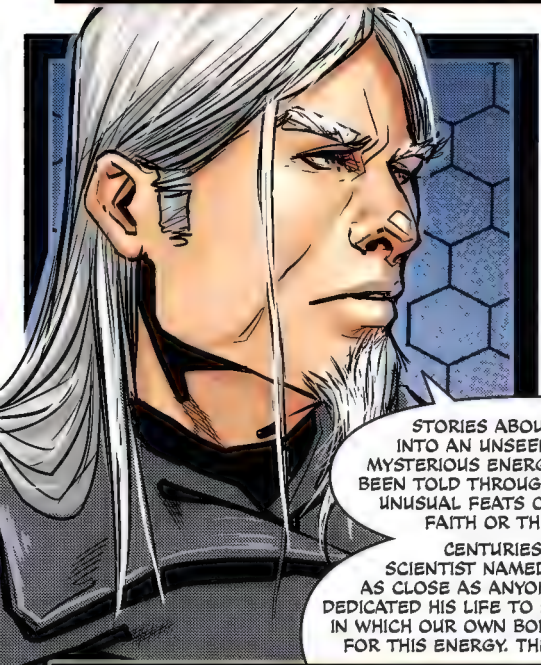
THE WORLD
SEEMS TO BE
ENTERING A WHOLE
NEW FRONTIER
IN TERMS OF
ENERGY -



--AND I
THINK IT'S FAIR
TO SAY THAT YOU ARE
STANDING AT THE HELM.
WOULD YOU AGREE,
RAINIER?

I DO NOT SEE MYSELF
AS SOME CAPTAIN OF
INDUSTRY. I AM JUST
ONE MAN DOING WHAT
HE CAN WITH THE
TOOLS AT HIS
DISPOSAL.

BUT, I AM NOT
SURE I WOULD AGREE
THAT WE ARE ENTERING A
NEW FRONTIER. EVERYTHING
IN THIS WORLD IS MADE UP OF
ENERGY. THE EARTH, THE SEA,
THE AIR. EVEN US. THERE
IS NOTHING NEW
ABOUT THAT.



STORIES ABOUT TAPPING
INTO AN UNSEEN, SEEMINGLY
MYSTERIOUS ENERGY SOURCE HAVE
BEEN TOLD THROUGHOUT THE AGES.
UNUSUAL FEATS OF SCIENCE OR
FAITH OR THE OCCULT.

CENTURIES AGO, A
SCIENTIST NAMED TESLA CAME
AS CLOSE AS ANYONE I SUPPOSE. HE
DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO STUDYING THE MEANS
IN WHICH OUR OWN BODIES WERE CONDUITS
FOR THIS ENERGY. THEY CALLED HIM MAD.



PERHAPS, THEY
WILL CALL ME THAT AS
WELL SOMEDAY.

SOME
HAVE USED THE
TERM MAGIC TO
DESCRIBE IT.

MAGIC? THAT WORD
MERELY DESCRIBES THAT
WHICH HAS NOT BEEN
EXPLAINED...YET.



HUMANITY SPENT ITS
TIME COBBLING TOGETHER
WHAT POWER IT COULD FROM
FOSSIL FUELS AND RENEWABLE
SOURCES. ALL THE WHILE, THIS
MAGNIFICENT ENERGY
LAID IN WAIT.

BUT,
WE WERE
TOO AFRAID
TO REACH
FOR IT.



WELL, I AM
NOT AFRAID TO
REACH FOR IT...
TO HARNESS IT...

...TO CONTROL IT.

YOU WERE AT THE CLUB, TOO? REALLY? DID NOT SEE YOU.

HOW WOULD YOU? THERE WAS LIKE A THOUSAND PEOPLE THERE.

I KNOW, BUT STILL...

...HOW COULD I MISS?

THAT PLACE WAS DEFINITELY FOR REAL. MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING. THOUGHT MY CHEST WAS GONNA EXPLODE FROM THE BASS DROPPING.

I DIDN'T GET IN. THE LINE WAS AROUND THE BLOCK. TWICE.

AW, GOTTA LET ME KNOW NEXT TIME. I'LL GET YOU IN.

GUY AT THE DOOR KEPT CRYING ABOUT CAPACITY? YOU KNOW, FIRE CODE AND ALL THAT NONSENSE.

THAT DON'T STOP US, DOES IT?

SMACK

NO WAY, MALIKAI!

WHOA.

HEY!

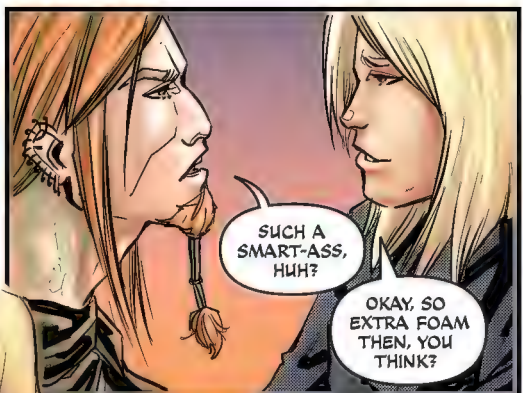
WATCH IT!



SORRY,
MAN. MY BRO
HERE DOESN'T
KNOW HIS OWN
STRENGTH.

NOT MY
PROBLEM.

NO, IT'S NOT.
HOW ABOUT I BUY
YOU ANOTHER ROUND.
WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING,
ROSE TEA LATTES?
NO-FOAM?



SUCH A
SMART-ASS,
HUH?

OKAY, SO
EXTRA FOAM
THEN, YOU
THINK?



APOLOGIES, BUT I HAVE
THIS THING ABOUT
PERSONAL SPACE.

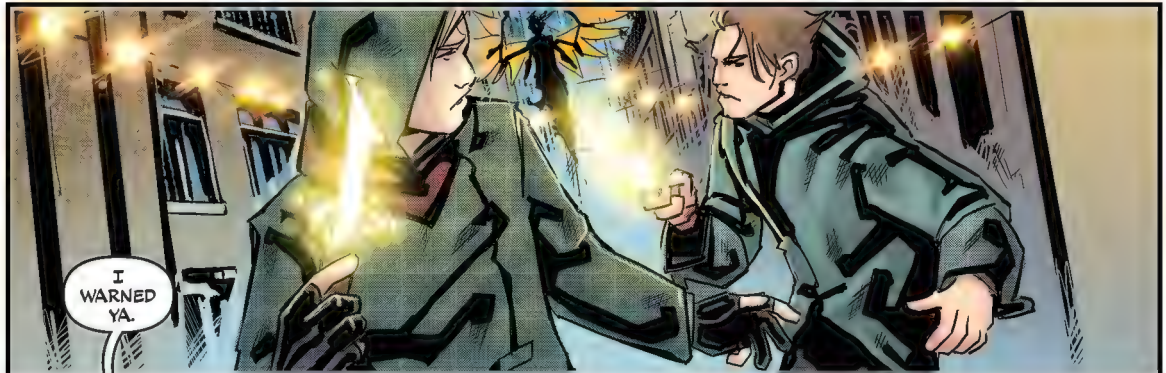
GAH!



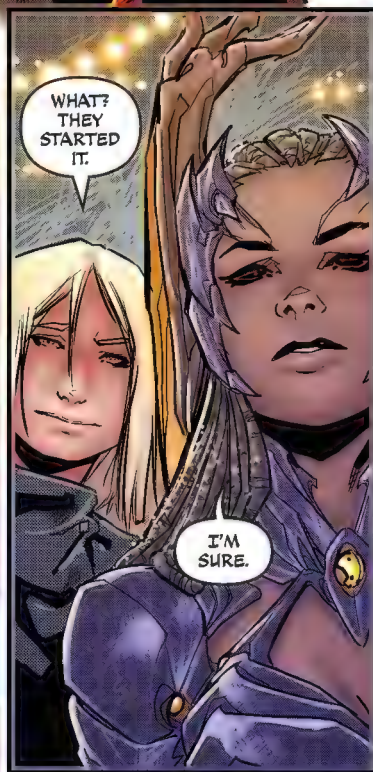
WHOA! EASY,
FELLA.

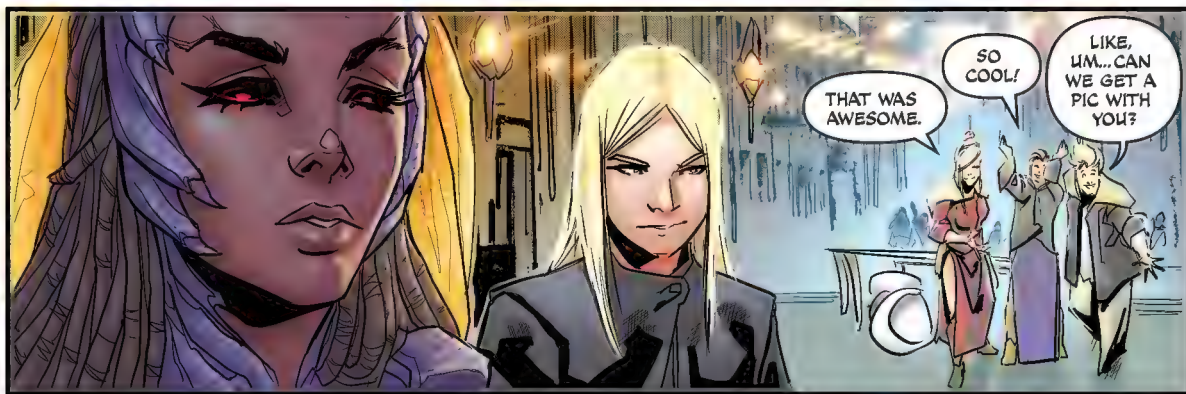


NOW, NOW.
NO NEED TO
ESCALATE
THINGS...



I
WARNED
YA.





THAT WAS AWESOME.

SO COOL!

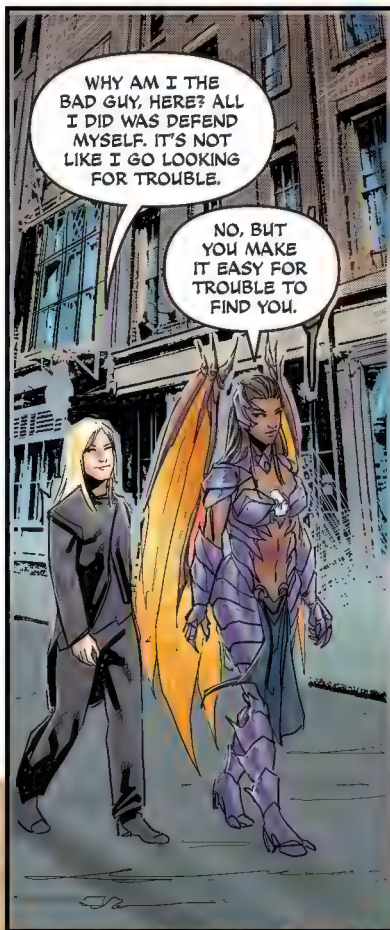
LIKE, UM... CAN WE GET A PIC WITH YOU?



MAYBE NEXT TIME. GOTTA RUN.

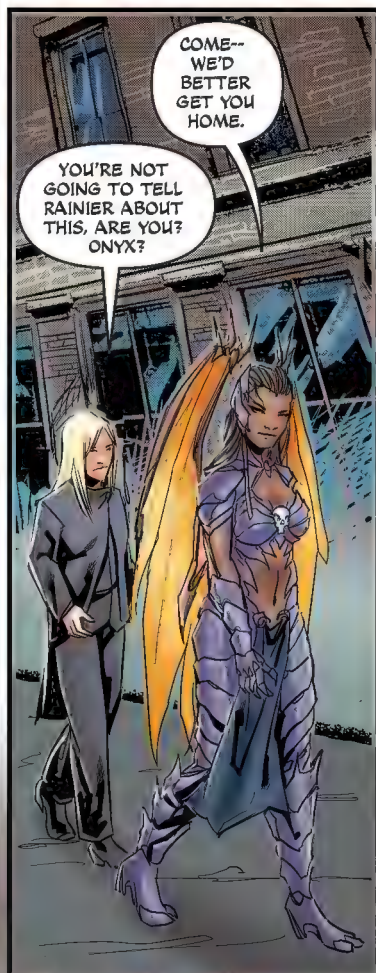
CALL ME!

JUST HAVE JAVIER PUT EVERYTHING ON MY CARD.



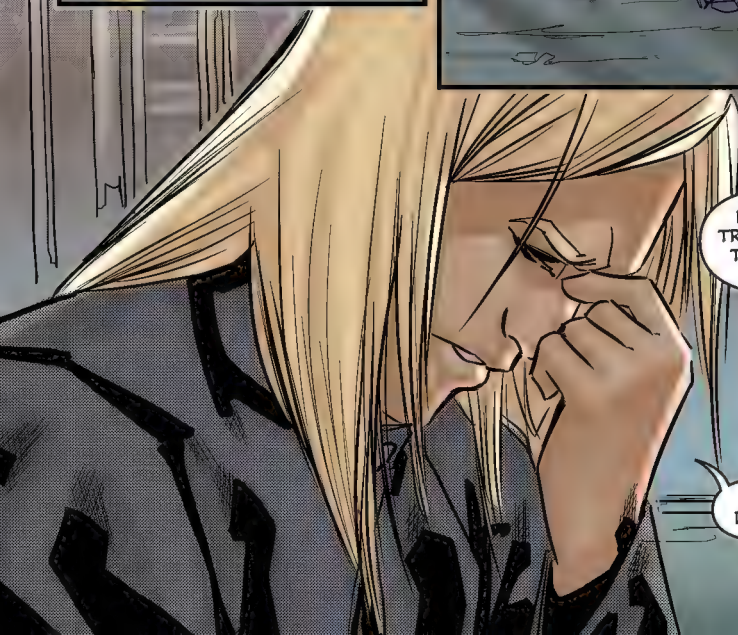
WHY AM I THE BAD GUY, HERE? ALL I DID WAS DEFEND MYSELF. IT'S NOT LIKE I GO LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.

NO, BUT YOU MAKE IT EASY FOR TROUBLE TO FIND YOU.



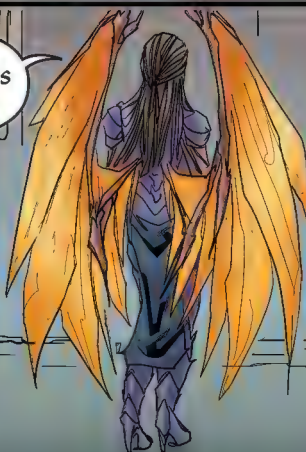
COME-- WE'D BETTER GET YOU HOME.

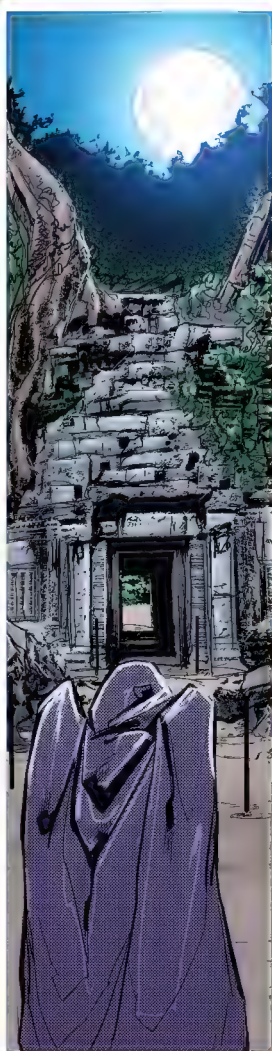
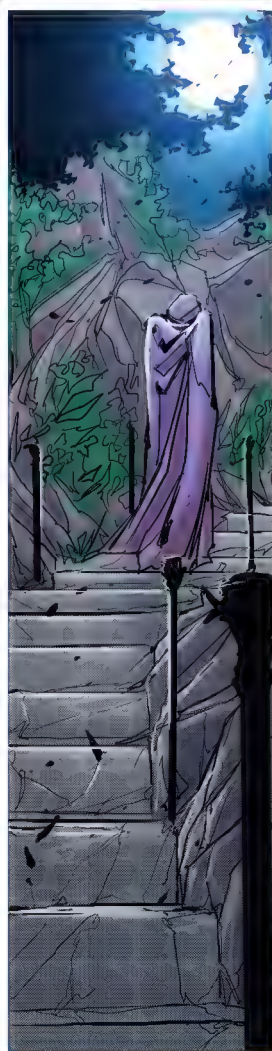
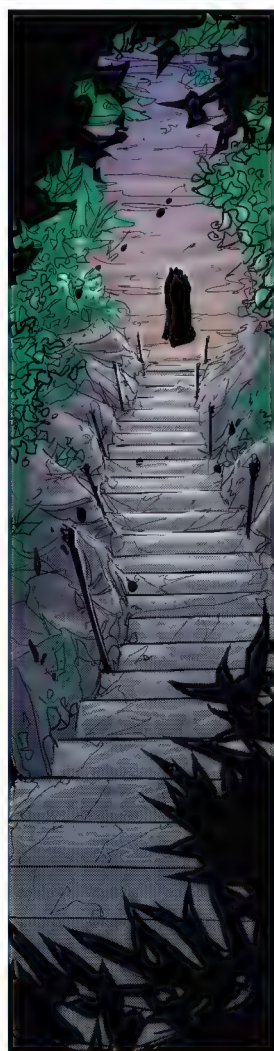
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL RAINIER ABOUT THIS, ARE YOU? ONYX?



LIKE I SAID. TROUBLE SEEMS TO FIND YOU, MALIKAL.

AW, DAMMIT.

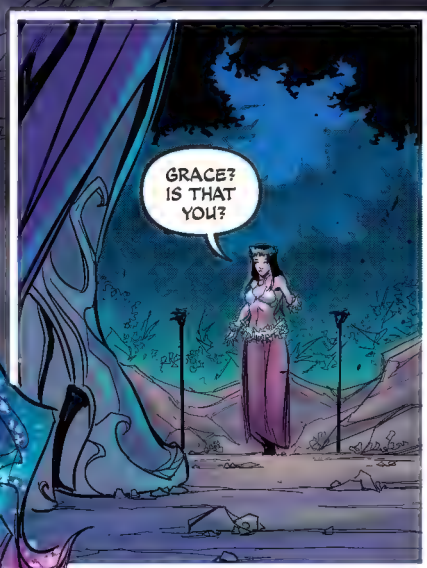




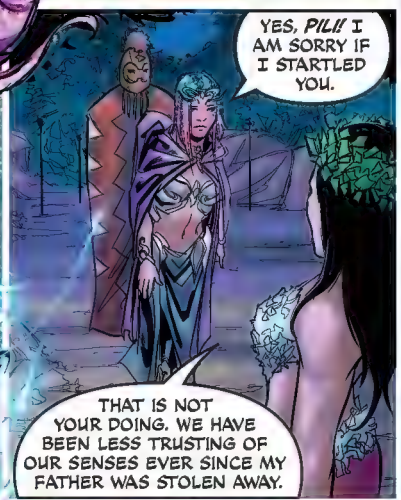


I
MEAN NO
HARM.

PLEASE,
KAMEA...
LISTEN...

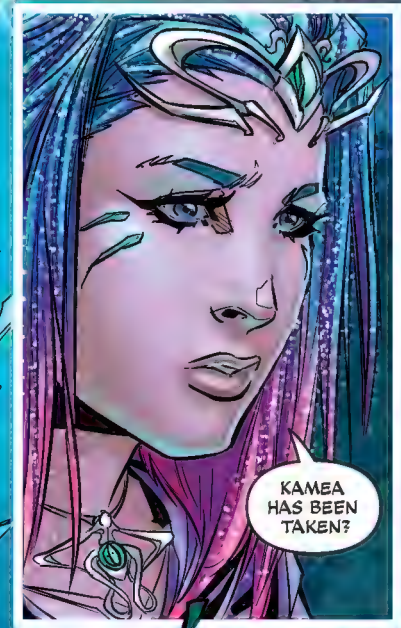


GRACE?
IS THAT
YOU?

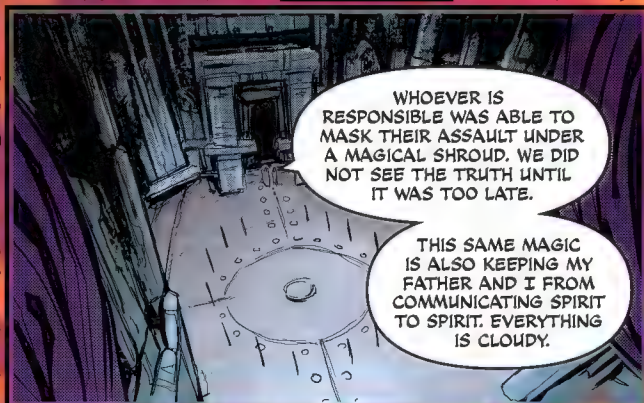


YES, PILL! I
AM SORRY IF
I STARTLED
YOU.

THAT IS NOT
YOUR DOING. WE HAVE
BEEN LESS TRUSTING OF
OUR SENSES EVER SINCE MY
FATHER WAS STOLEN AWAY.

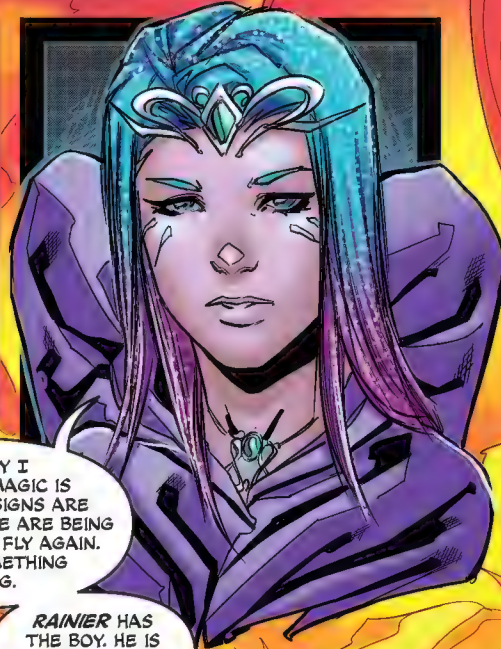


KAMEA
HAS BEEN
TAKEN?



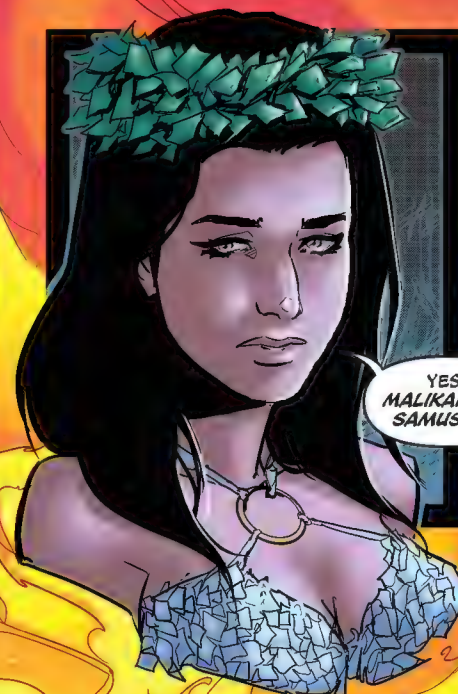
WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE WAS ABLE TO MASK THEIR ASSAULT UNDER A MAGICAL SHROUD. WE DID NOT SEE THE TRUTH UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.

THIS SAME MAGIC IS ALSO KEEPING MY FATHER AND I FROM COMMUNICATING SPIRIT TO SPIRIT. EVERYTHING IS CLOUDY.

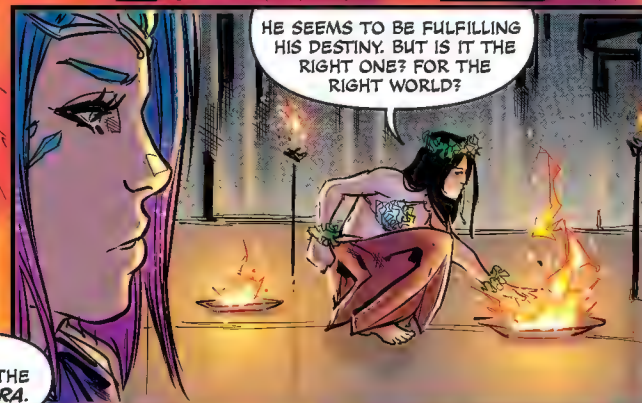


THAT IS WHY I AM HERE. THE MAGIC IS RETURNING. THE SIGNS ARE EVERYWHERE. PEOPLE ARE BEING REBORN. DRAGONS FLY AGAIN. AND YET - SOMETHING IS WRONG.

RAINIER HAS THE BOY. HE IS CONTROLLING HIM, MANIPULATING HIM.



YES, MALIKAI. THE SAMUSARA.



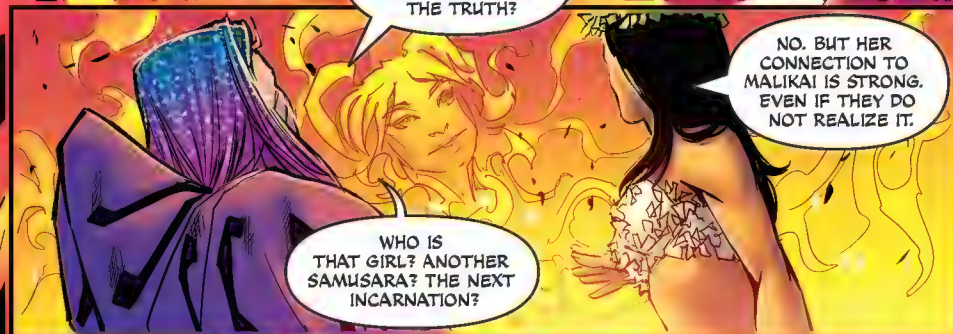
HE SEEMS TO BE FULFILLING HIS DESTINY. BUT IS IT THE RIGHT ONE? FOR THE RIGHT WORLD?



MY VISIONS CHANGE. EVEN THOSE OF THE PAST. IT IS AS IF EXISTENCE ITSELF IS FLUID, EVOLVING. THE ROAD AHEAD OF US IS AS UNCERTAIN AS THE PATH BEHIND US.

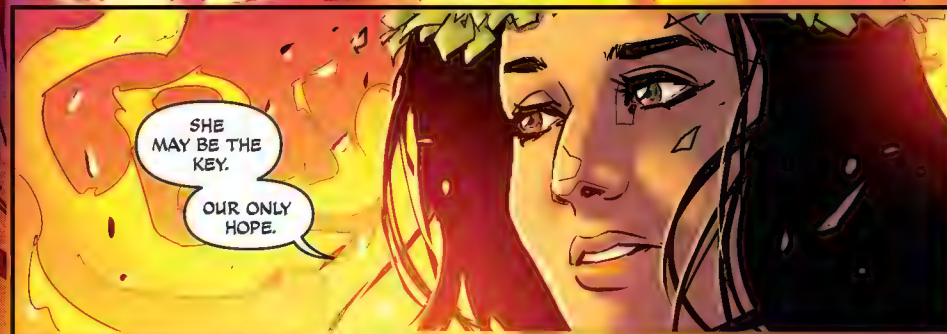
IT ALL RESTS UPON THE SAMUSARA. UPON MALIKAI. ONLY HE CAN SET THINGS RIGHT.

EVEN IF WE CAN REACH HIM. HOW DO WE DO THAT? GET HIM TO SEE THE TRUTH?



WHO IS THAT GIRL? ANOTHER SAMUSARA? THE NEXT INCARNATION?

NO. BUT HER CONNECTION TO MALIKAI IS STRONG. EVEN IF THEY DO NOT REALIZE IT.

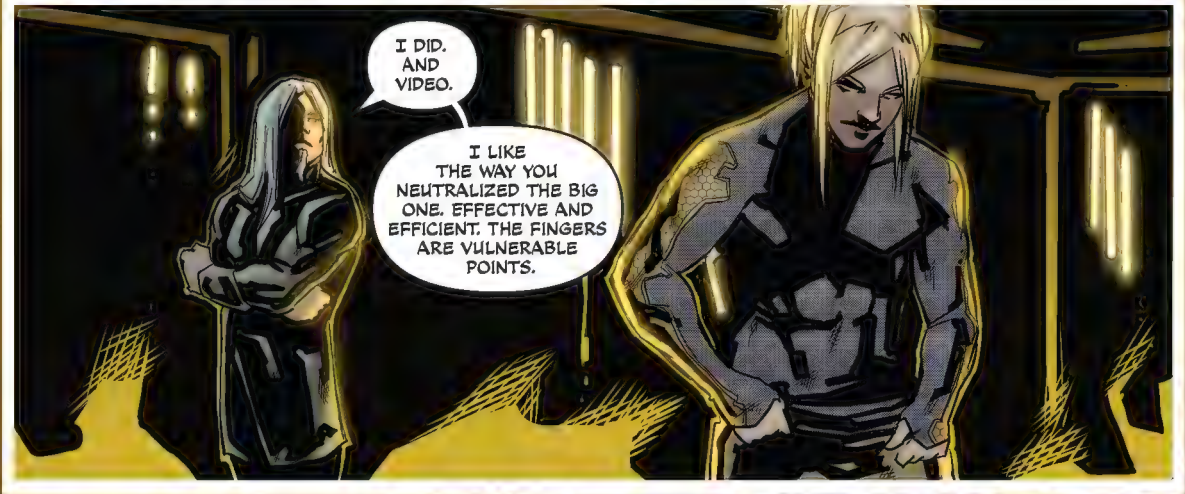


SHE MAY BE THE KEY.

OUR ONLY HOPE.

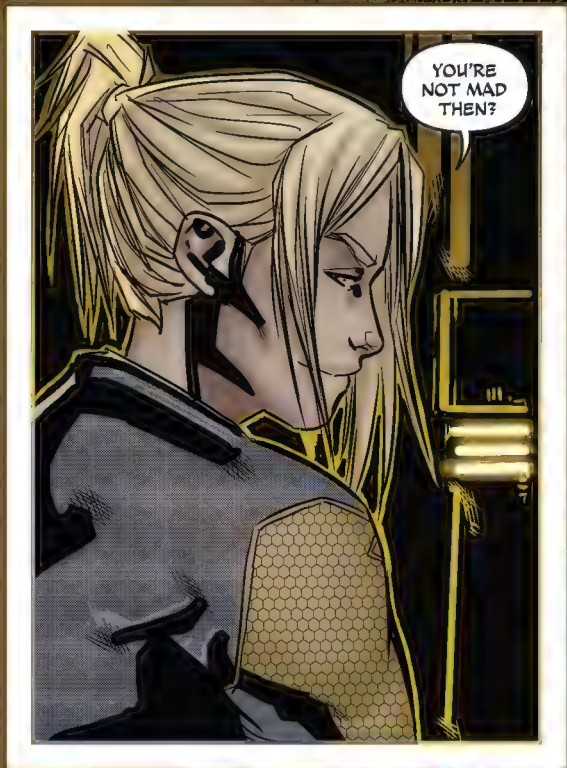


I ASSUME
YOU GOT A
FULL REPORT
ABOUT TODAY'S
ACTIVITIES.



I DID.
AND
VIDEO.

I LIKE
THE WAY YOU
NEUTRALIZED THE BIG
ONE. EFFECTIVE AND
EFFICIENT. THE FINGERS
ARE VULNERABLE
POINTS.

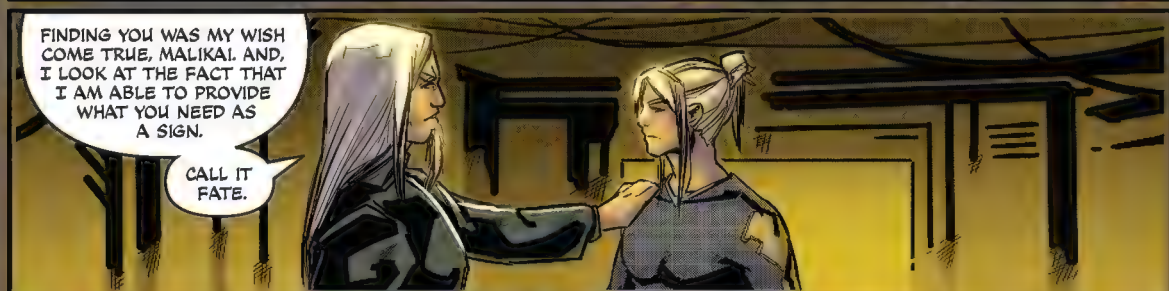
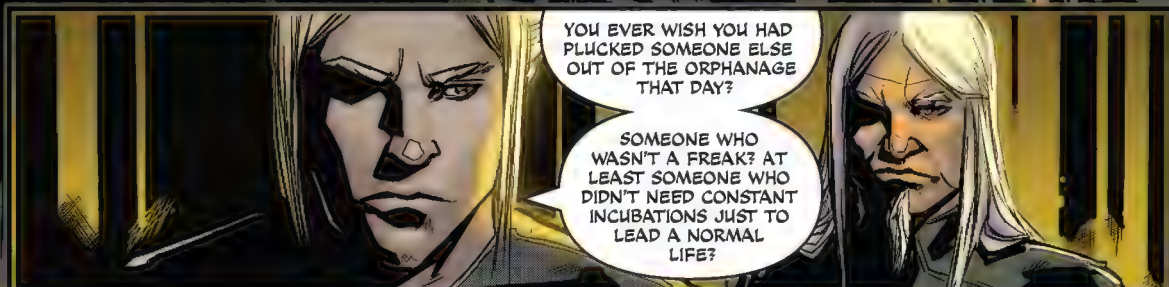


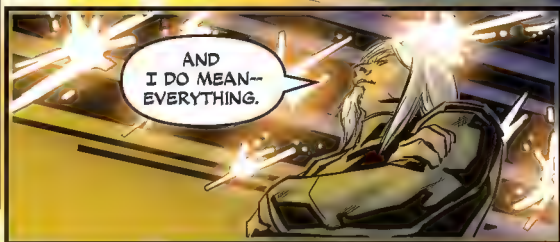
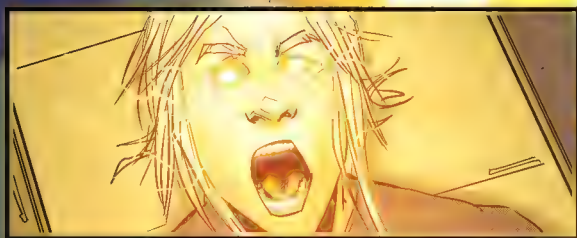
YOU'RE
NOT MAD
THEN?



I JUST WANT
YOU TO BE SAFE. YOU
ARE VERY IMPORTANT
TO ME. YOU KNOW
THAT, RIGHT?

OF
COURSE.





TO BE
CONTINUED



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ALL NEW
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#2

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Vol. 6

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

Benoit

#2

OF 8
COVER B



A young boy, Malikai, begins to question his future, as he painfully adjusts to a much more privileged life under the guidance of a industrial magnate, Rainier.

Meanwhile, two powerful magical warriors, Grace and Pui, have their own doubts about the return of magic to the world—as they know better than most of the dangers of manipulation at the hands of his powerful benefactor.

ASPEN COMICS PRESENTS:

All New Soulfire

PART 2 of 8

J.T. Krul
writer

Giuseppe Cafaro
pencils & inks

Wes Hartman
colors

Zen
letters

Vince Hernandez, Gabe Carrasco —editors

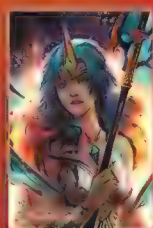
Mark Roslan, Peter Steigerwald, Gabe Carrasco —design & production



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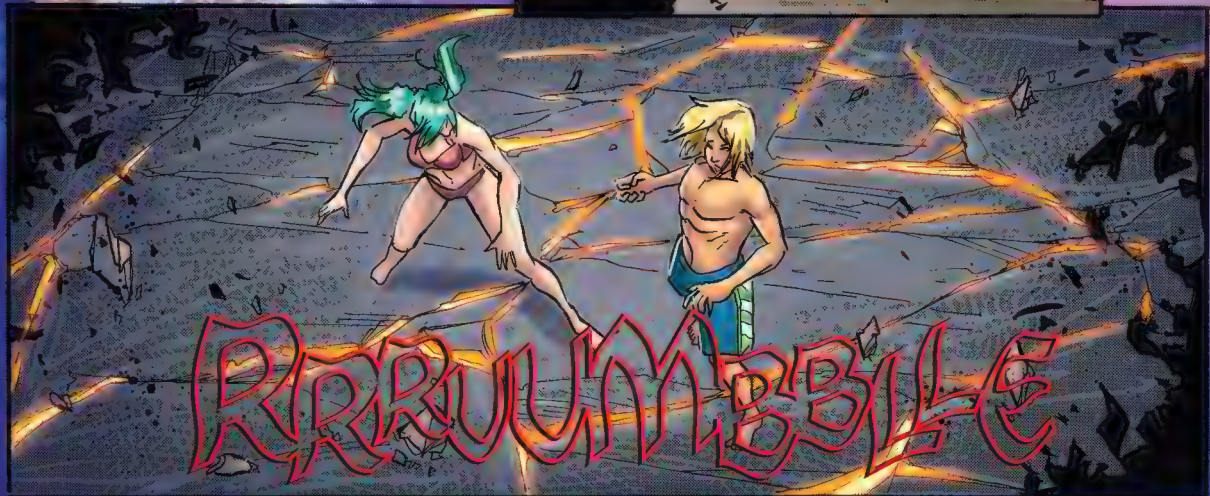
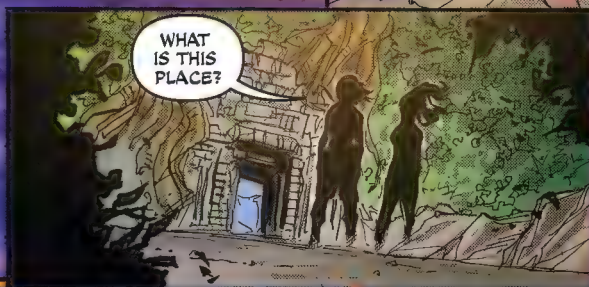
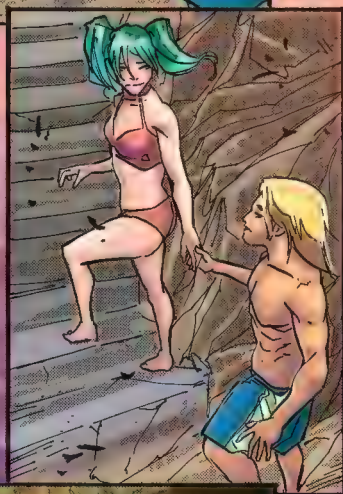
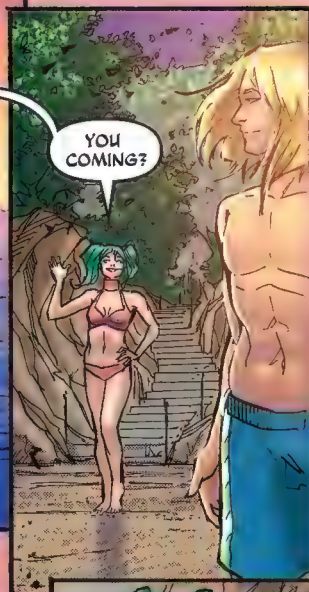
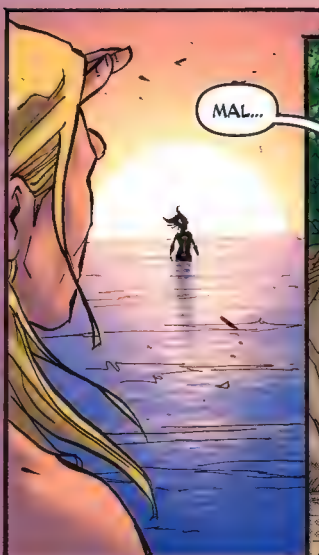
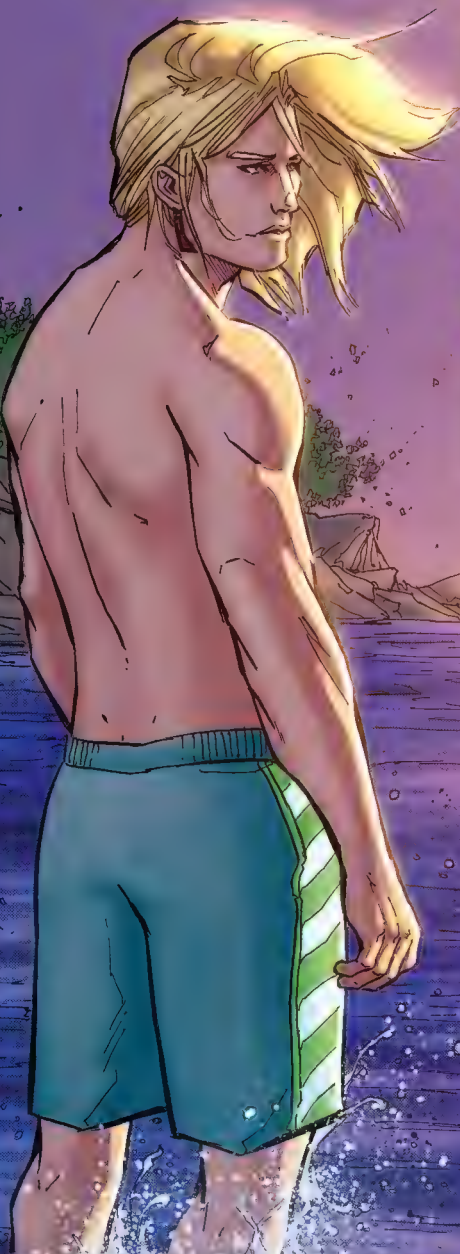
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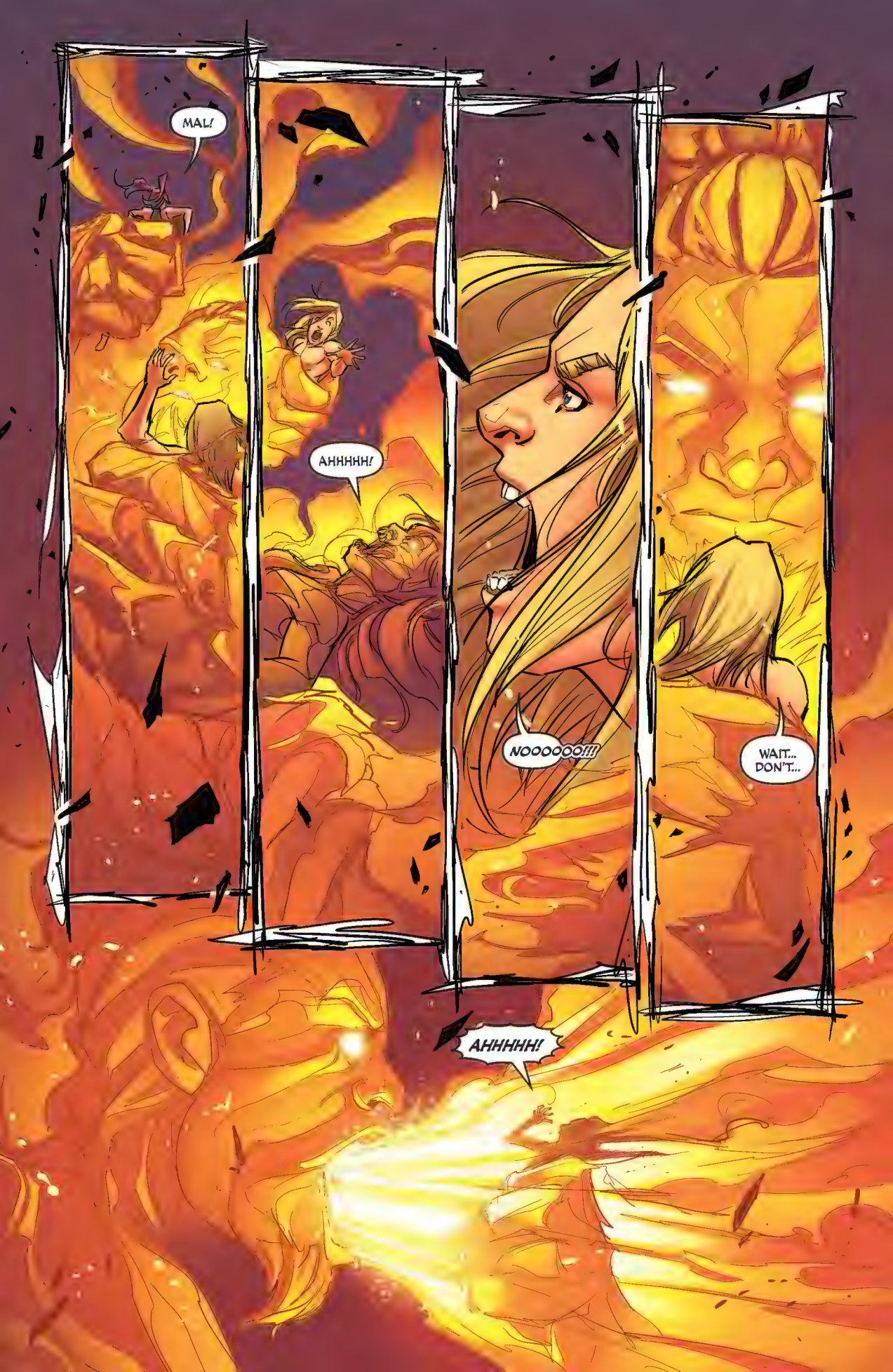
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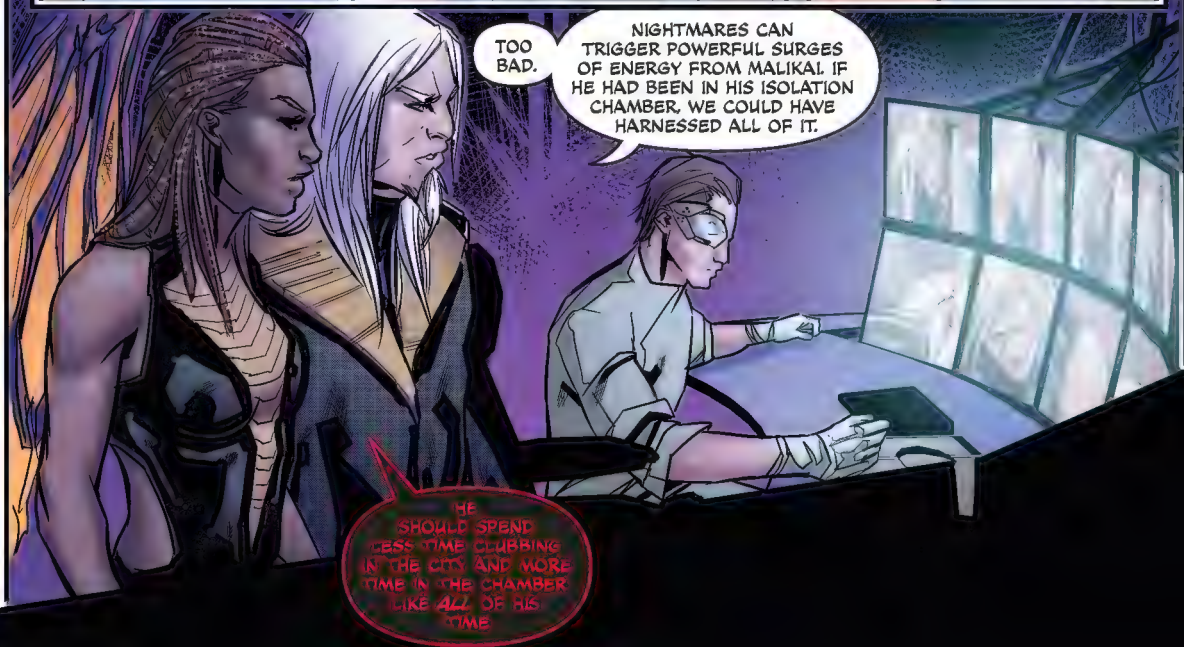
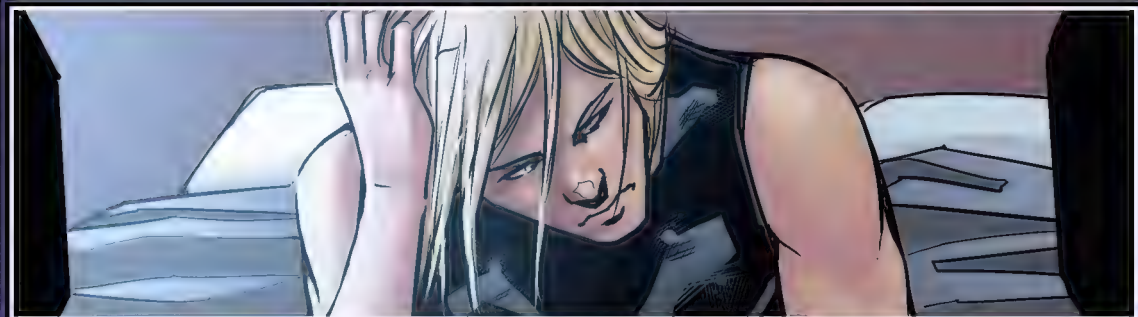
MA!

АННННН!

NOOOOOO!!!

WAIT...
DON'T...

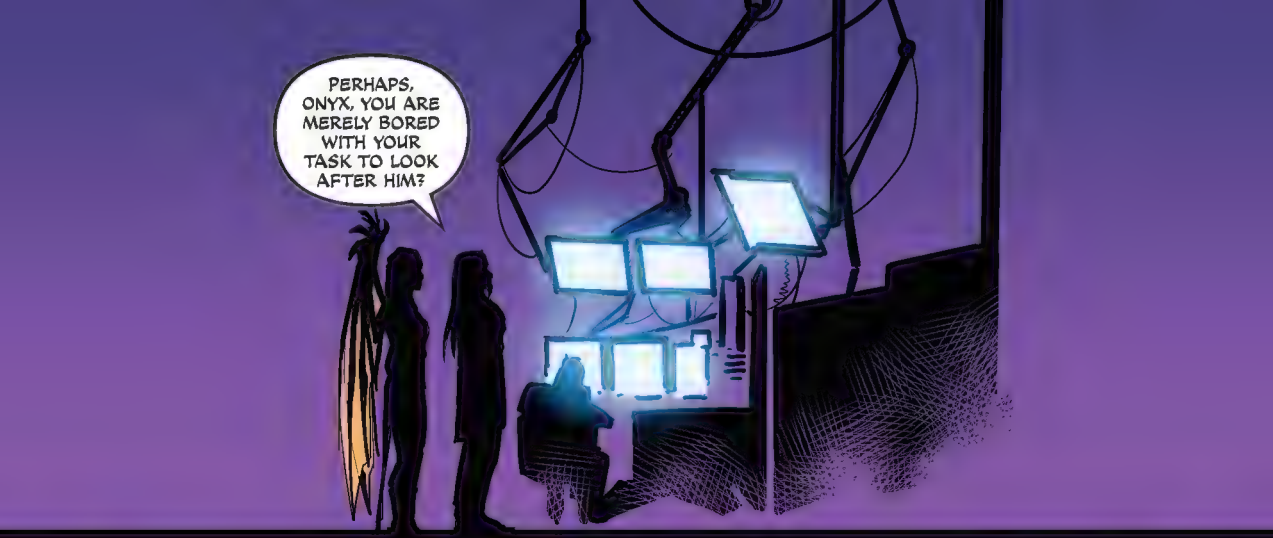
АНННННН!



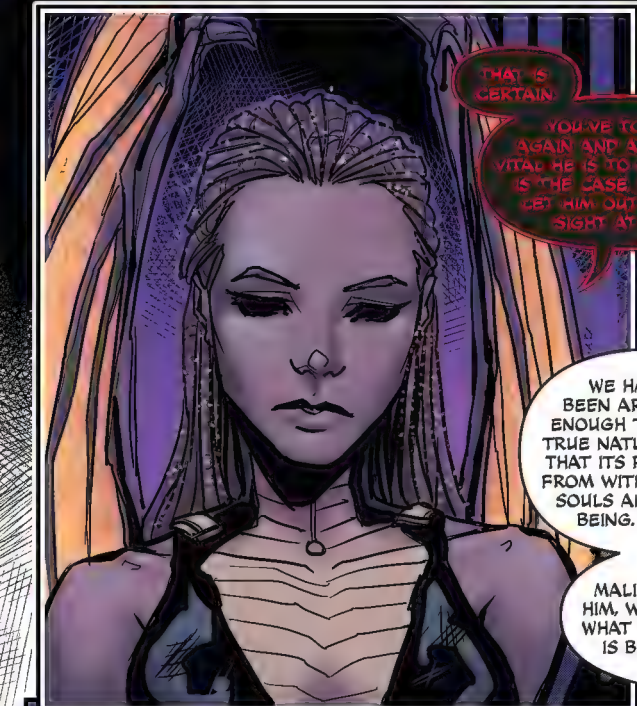
TOO
BAD.

NIGHTMARES CAN
TRIGGER POWERFUL SURGES
OF ENERGY FROM MALIKAL IF
HE HAD BEEN IN HIS ISOLATION
CHAMBER. WE COULD HAVE
HARNESSED ALL OF IT.

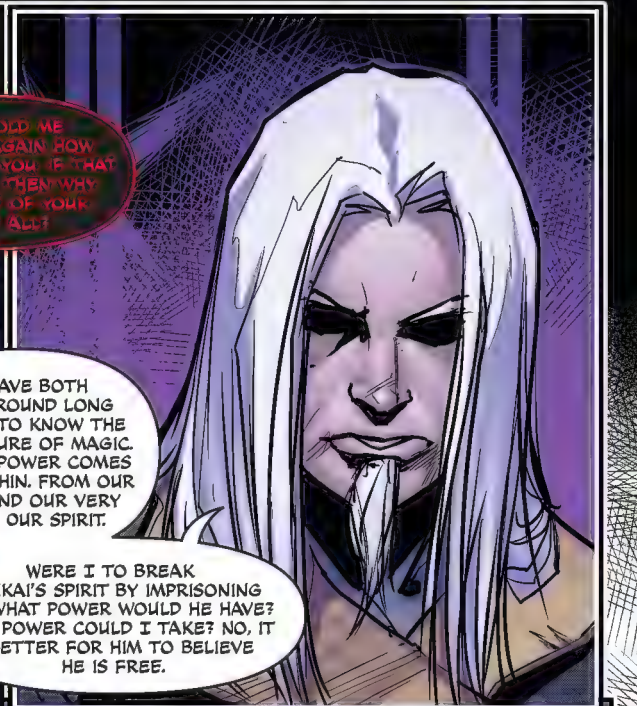
HE
SHOULD SPEND
LESS TIME CLUBBING
IN THE CITY AND MORE
TIME IN THE CHAMBER
LIKE ALL OF HIS
TIME



PERHAPS,
ONYX, YOU ARE
MERELY BORED
WITH YOUR
TASK TO LOOK
AFTER HIM?



THAT IS
CERTAIN.



YOU'VE TOLD ME
AGAIN AND AGAIN HOW
VITAL HE IS TO YOU. IF THAT
IS THE CASE, THEN WHY
LET HIM OUT OF YOUR
SIGHT AT ALL?

WE HAVE BOTH
BEEN AROUND LONG
ENOUGH TO KNOW THE
TRUE NATURE OF MAGIC.
THAT ITS POWER COMES
FROM WITHIN. FROM OUR
SOULS AND OUR VERY
BEING. OUR SPIRIT.

WERE I TO BREAK
MALIKAI'S SPIRIT BY IMPRISONING
HIM, WHAT POWER WOULD I HAVE?
WHAT POWER COULD I TAKE? NO, IT
IS BETTER FOR HIM TO BELIEVE
HE IS FREE.



BETTER
HE NEVER SEES
THE CAGE THAT
HOLDS HIM.

IT'S JUST SO UNFAIR. I MEAN, OF COURSE I FREAKED OUT WHEN I SAW THESE BUMPS GROWING ON MY BACK. MY PARENTS TOOK ME TO THE DOCTORS AND THEY SAID IT WAS SOME KIND OF BONE CANCER. SO, THEY REMOVED IT.

YEAH, THAT SUCKS, MAN.

BUT, THEY WERE ONLY DOING WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS BEST. NOBODY COULD HAVE PREDICTED WHAT THOSE MARKINGS MEANT.

I MEAN-- MOST PEOPLE STILL AREN'T ACCEPTING WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE SAVING MY LIFE, BUT ALL THEY DID WAS ROB ME. ROB ME OF MY WINGS.

HOW COULD THEY NOT? THERE ARE FLYING ANGELS ALL AROUND US.

AND... I COULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THEM.

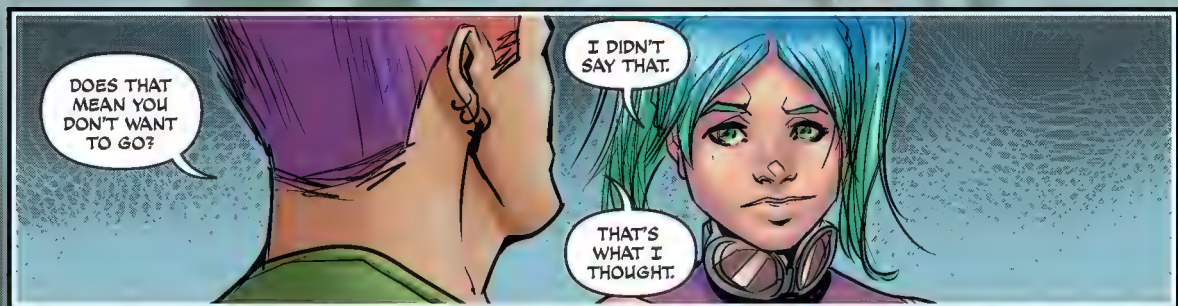
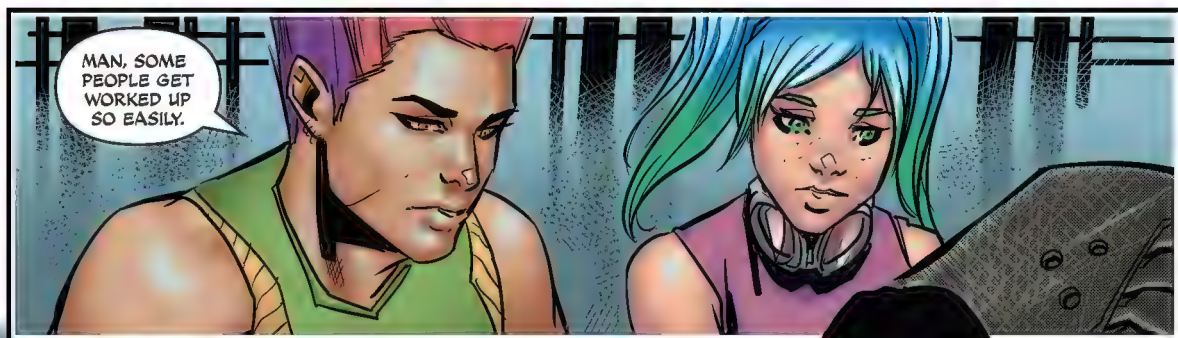
BUT, I'VE BEEN AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT PITY WON'T TAKE YOU FAR. ONLY HOLDS YOU BACK. ACTUALLY.

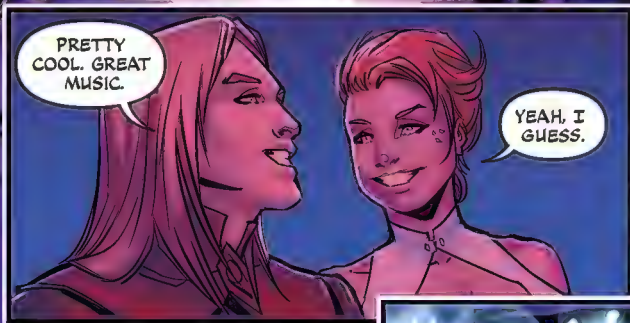
SO, WE MIGHT NOT HAVE ANY REAL MAGIC AROUND HERE. BUT, THAT'S OKAY...

...BECAUSE WE MAKE OUR OWN.

BELIEVE ME, EVERYONE HERE KNOWS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE LEFT OUT. IT'S LIKE ALL THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY GOD AND WE'RE STANDING AROUND THINKING- WHAT ABOUT US? DOESN'T GOD LOVE US TOO? WHAT DID WE DO WRONG?

SWEET!



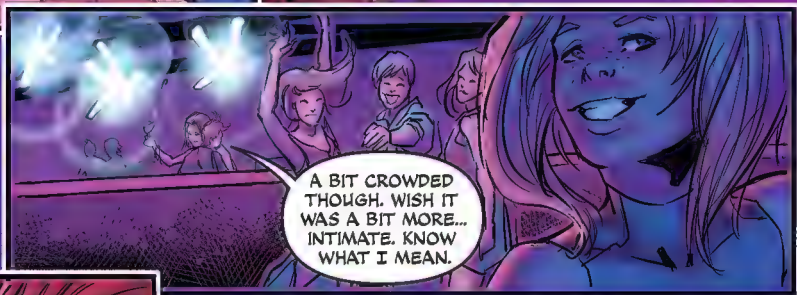


PRETTY COOL. GREAT MUSIC.

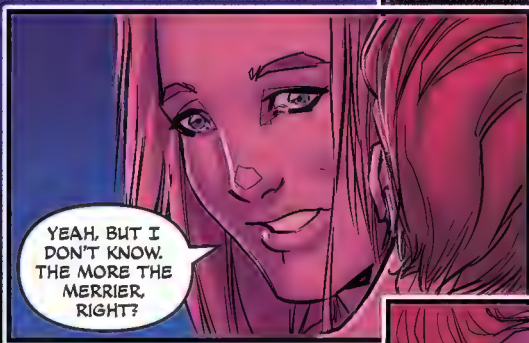
YEAH, I GUESS.



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS PLACE?



A BIT CROWDED THOUGH. WISH IT WAS A BIT MORE... INTIMATE. KNOW WHAT I MEAN.



YEAH, BUT I DON'T KNOW. THE MORE THE MERRIER, RIGHT?



EXCUSE ME. I'LL BE RIGHT RIGHT BACK.

WHERE YOU GOING?



HI UM, I'M MALIKA!

SONIA.



YOUR FACE LOOKS VERY FAMILIAR.

IT DOES. TOO BAD. AND HERE I THOUGHT I WAS ONE-OF-A-KIND.

HA! NO, NO. I JUST MEANT I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

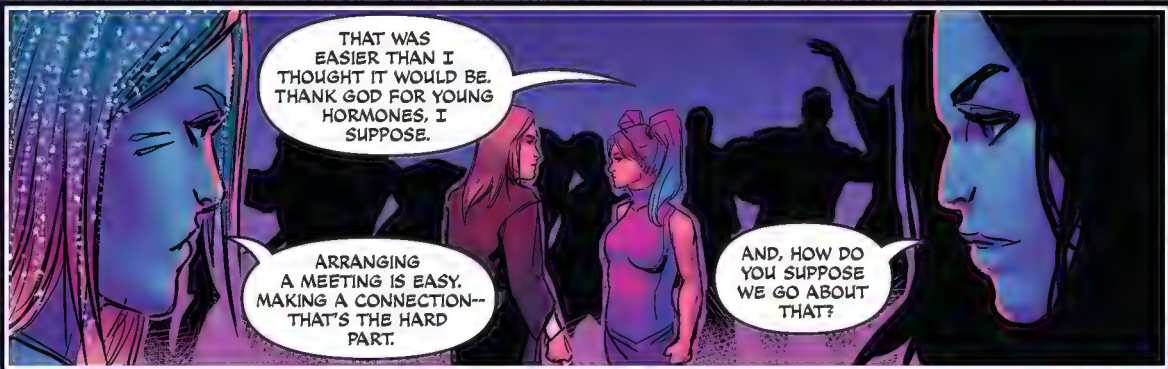
I'M AROUND. NOT AS MUCH AS YOU I BET.

DON'T BELIEVE EVERY STORY YOU HEAR. MOST OF WHAT'S PRINTED ABOUT ME IS JUST TO SELL ADS.

OH, I DON'T TAKE ANYTHING FOR GRANTED. I LIKE TO DO MY OWN RESEARCH.



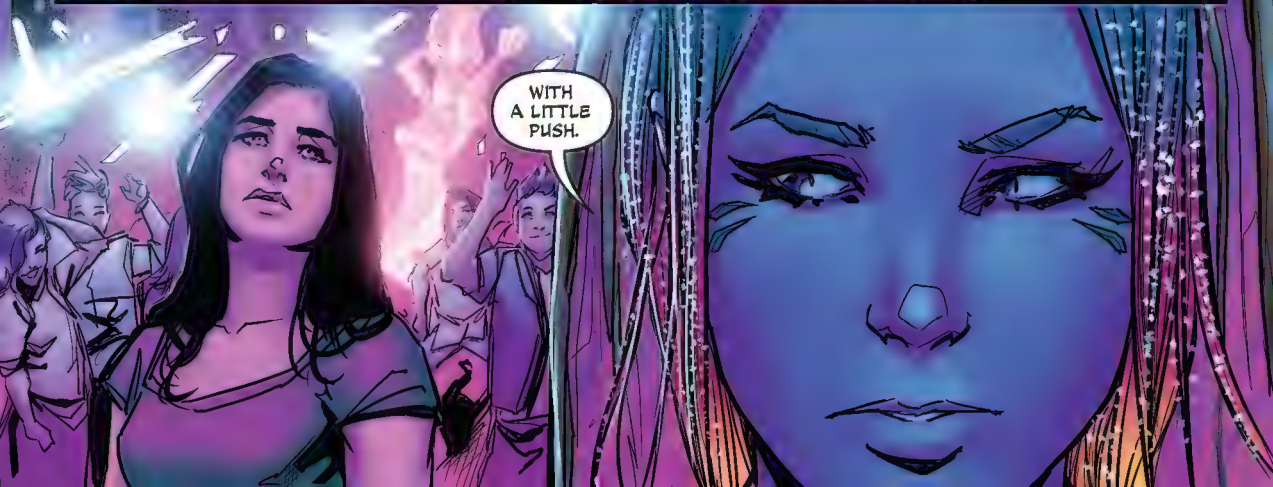
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.



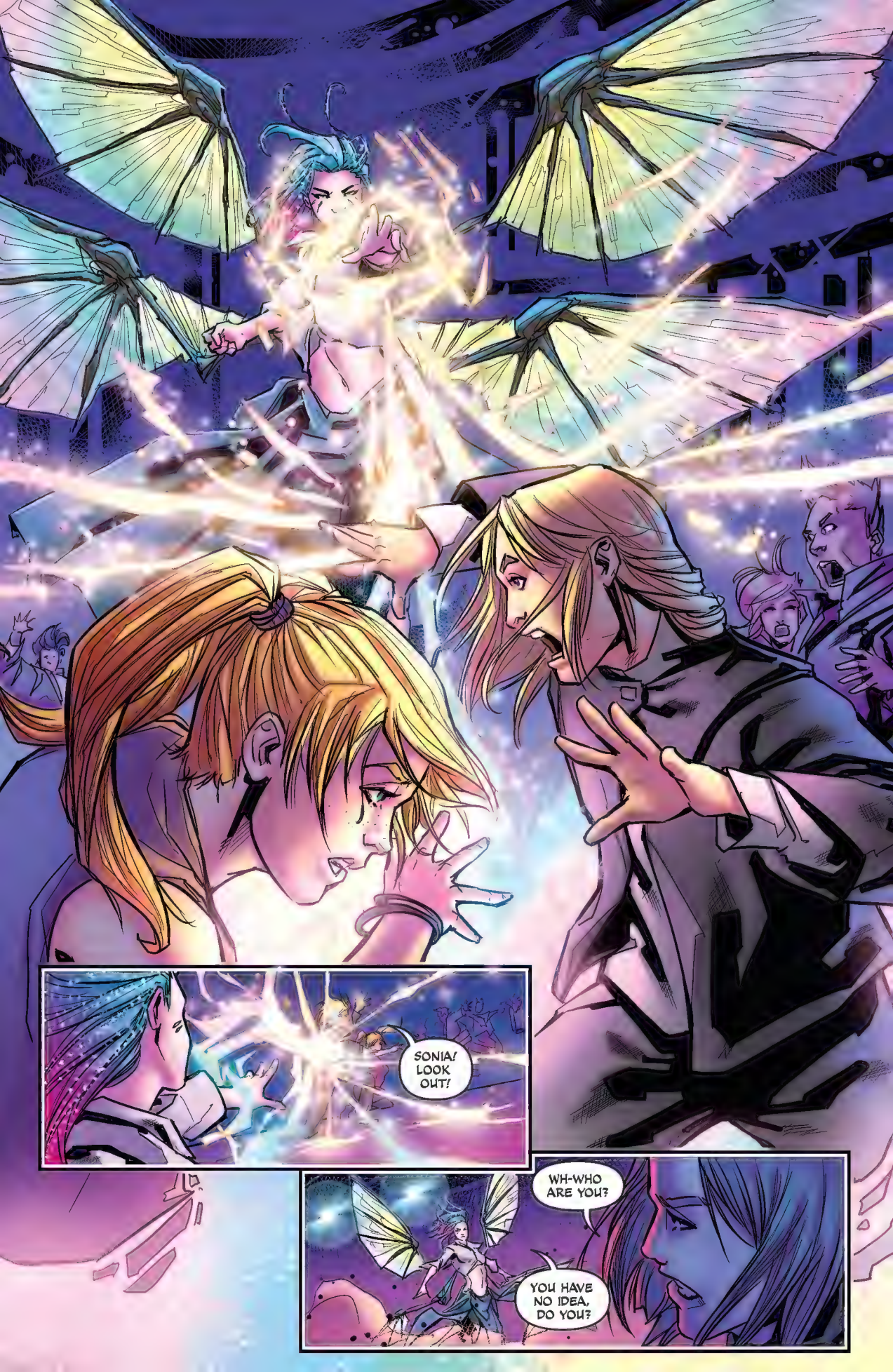
THAT WAS EASIER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE. THANK GOD FOR YOUNG HORMONES, I SUPPOSE.

ARRANGING A MEETING IS EASY. MAKING A CONNECTION-- THAT'S THE HARD PART.

AND, HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE WE GO ABOUT THAT?



WITH A LITTLE PUSH.



SONIA!
LOOK
OUT!



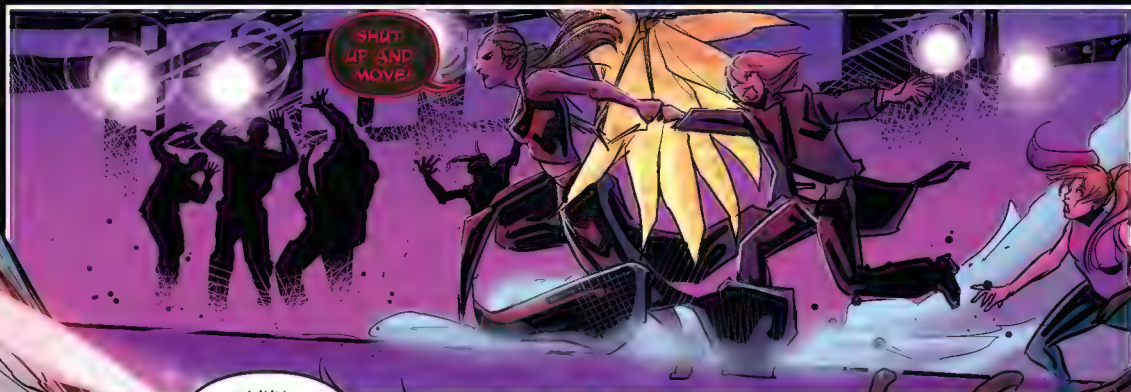
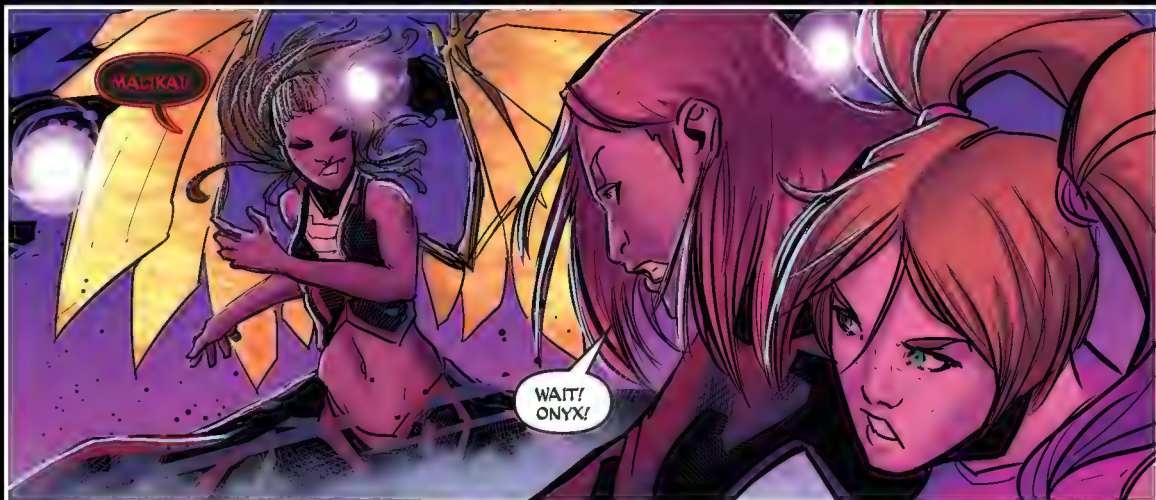
WH-WHO
ARE YOU?

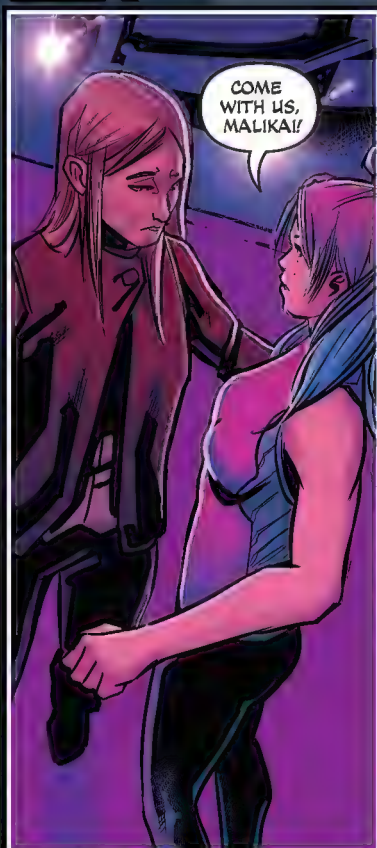
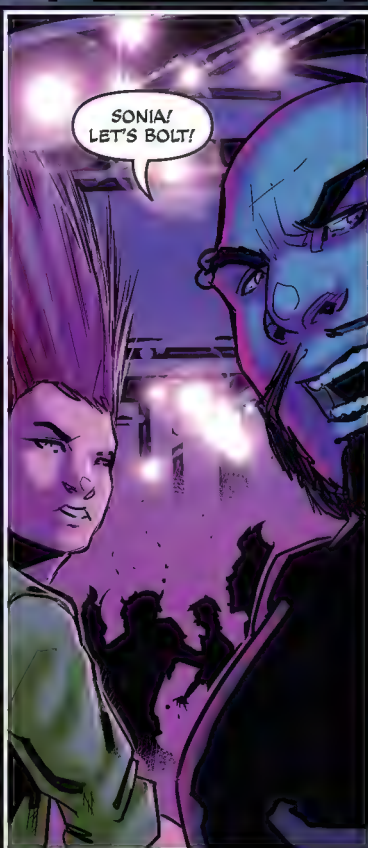
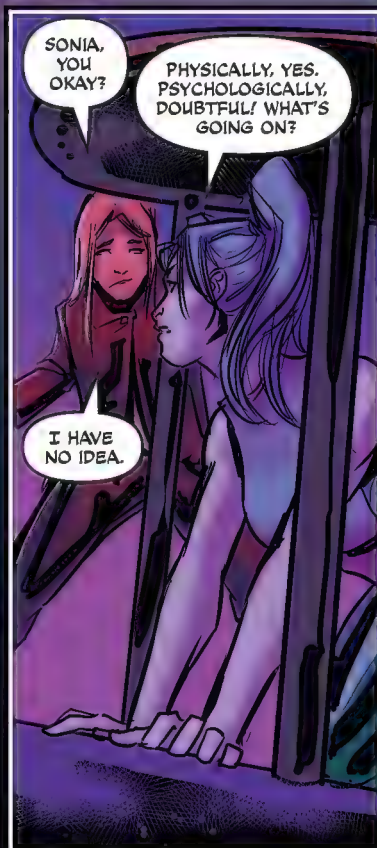
YOU HAVE
NO IDEA,
DO YOU?





WE GOT
A PROBLEM
HERE?



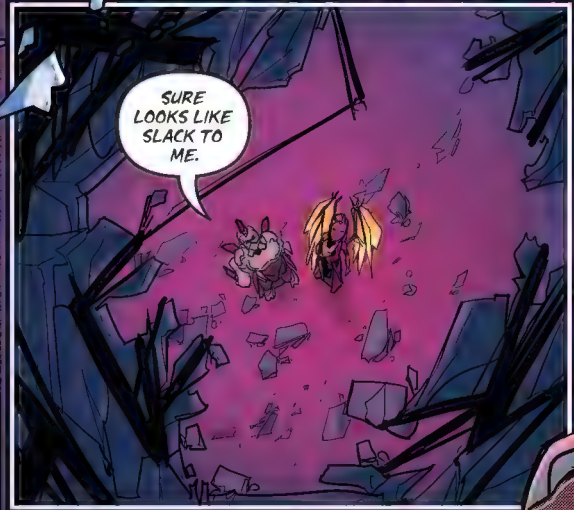
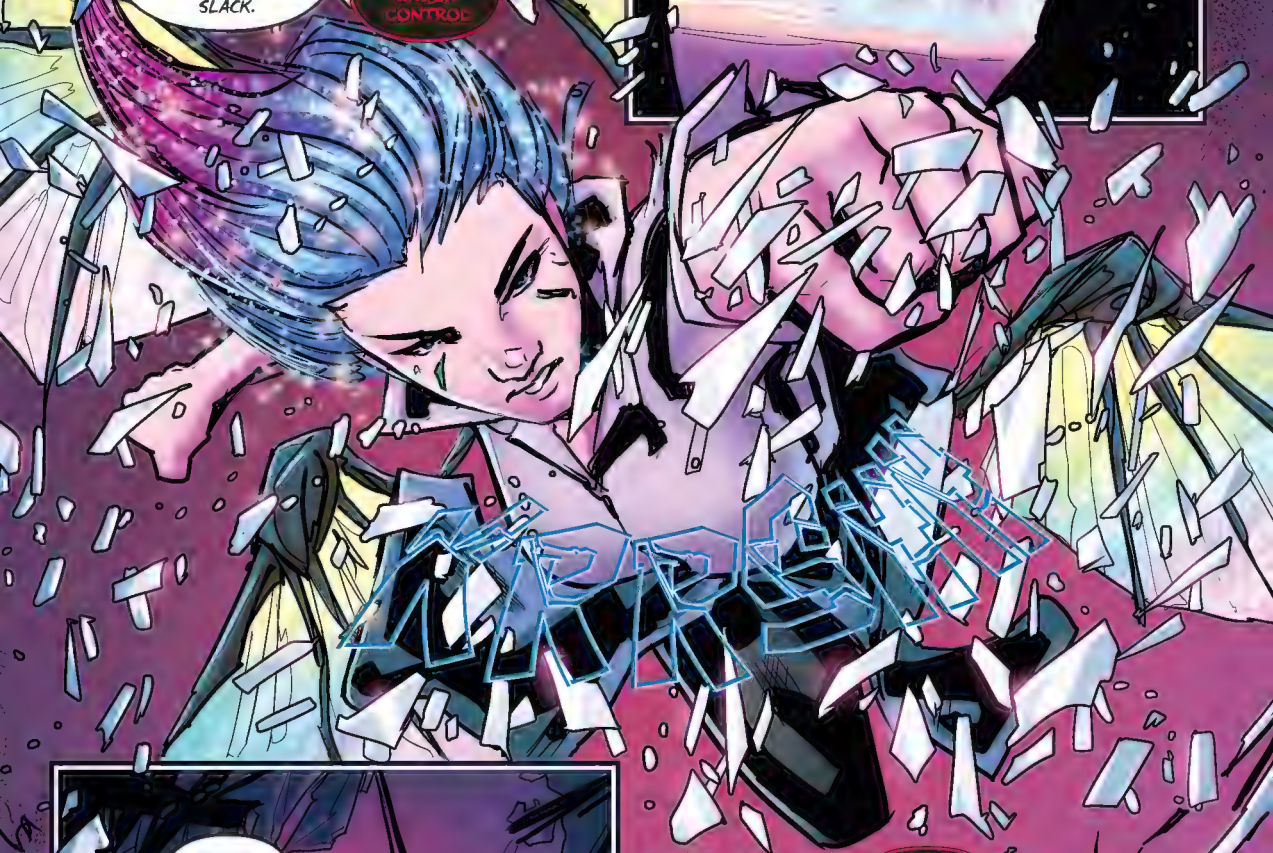




SPARK:
WHAT ARE YOU
EVEN DOING
HERE?

RAINIER
SAID YOU WERE
HAVING MOTIVATIONAL
ISSUES. HE THOUGHT
I MIGHT BE NEEDED
TO PICK UP YOUR
SLACK.

I HAVE
EVERYTHING
UNDER
CONTROL



SURE
LOOKS LIKE
SLACK TO
ME.



MALIKAI?

YEP.
MAJOR
SLACK.



WELL, THINGS
SURE DID GO OFF
THE RAILS QUICK
BACK THERE.

WHAT ARE
WE RUNNING FOR,
BENOIST? WE DIDN'T
DO ANYTHING
WRONG.

PJ, YOU STILL
GOT A LOT TO
LEARN ABOUT HOW
THE WORLD WORKS.
THAT WAS TEXTBOOK
WRONG PLACE,
WRONG TIME.



SUPPOSE
THIS KIND OF THING
HAPPENS AROUND YOU
ALL THE TIME, HUH,
MALIKAI?

SONIA,
YOU OKAY?
YOUR HAIR GET
SINGED OR
ANYTHING?

OH,
ME? I'M
PEACHY.



USUALLY, IT'S JUST
SOMEONE WANTING A
PIC OR AN AUTOGRAPH,
OR A HANDOUT FOR
THEIR NEW START-UP.

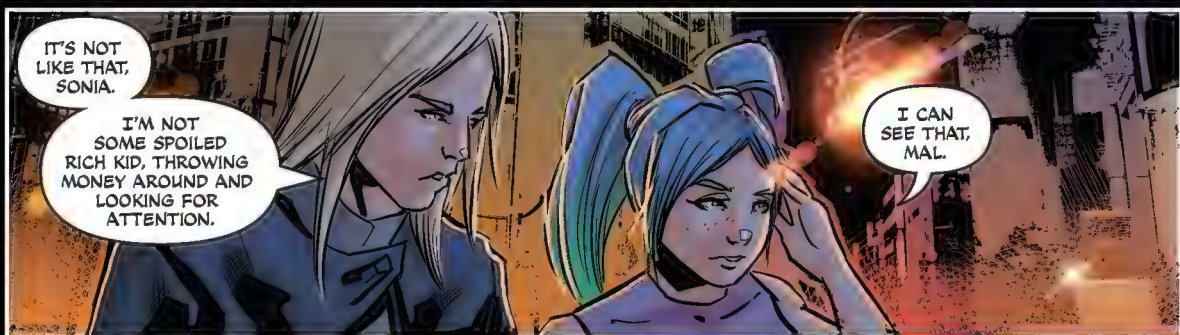
I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
THAT.

WELL, THAT
ONE BACK THERE
LOOKED LIKE SHE
WAS AFTER YOUR
HEAD.

I SAW THIS
VIDEO ONCE ABOUT
SOME PRINCE IN JORDAN
WHO GOT KIDNAPPED AND
THEN RANSOMED OFF
FOR MILLIONS.

WELL, I'M
NO PRINCE.

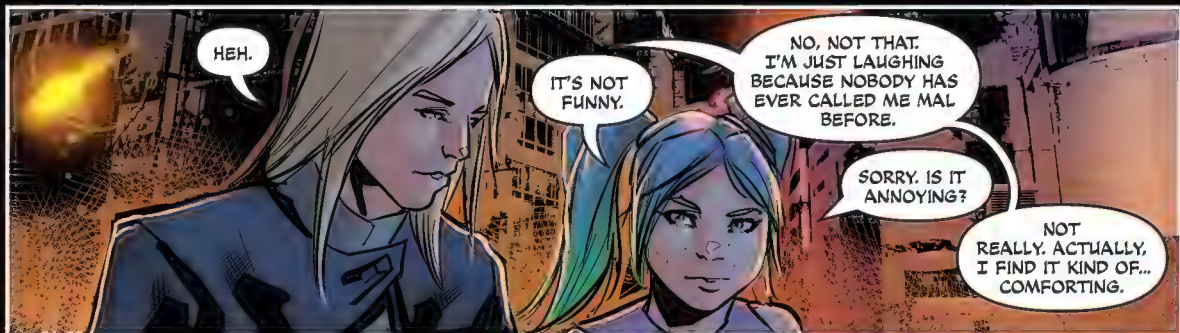
IN THIS
COUNTRY, RICH
IS AS CLOSE TO
ROYALTY AS YOU
CAN GET.



IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT,
SONIA.

I'M NOT
SOME SPOILED
RICH KID, THROWING
MONEY AROUND AND
LOOKING FOR
ATTENTION.

I CAN
SEE THAT,
MAL.



HEH.

IT'S NOT
FUNNY.

NO, NOT THAT.
I'M JUST LAUGHING
BECAUSE NOBODY HAS
EVER CALLED ME MAL
BEFORE.

SORRY. IS IT
ANNOYING?

NOT
REALLY. ACTUALLY,
I FIND IT KIND OF...
COMFORTING.



WELL,
MAL, MY POINT
IS-- YOU SHOULD BE
CAREFUL. THAT CRAZY
GIRL WITH THE WINGS
WAS CLEARLY
AFTER YOU.

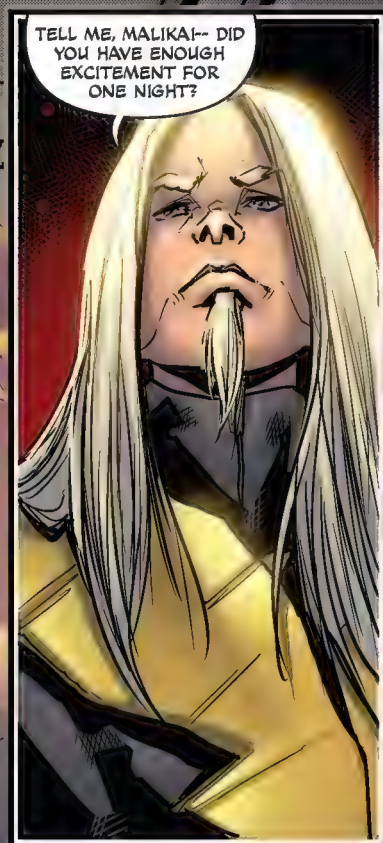


WHICH ONE? I
SAW TWO MAGICAL
BEAUTIES. AND ONE
MAGICAL DUDE.

THE
GUY DIDN'T HAVE
MAGIC. NOT REAL,
ANYWAY. THAT TECH ON
HIS ARM WAS DOING ALL
THE WORK. NEVER SAW
A POWER SOURCE LIKE
IT. STARTED GIVING
ME IDEAS.

ONYX IS
LIKE MY BIG
SISTER. MY VERY
MEAN, BIG SISTER.
SHE LOOKS OUT
FOR ME.

BUT,
THERE'S
NOTHING TO
WORRY ABOUT.
MY LIFE ISN'T
THAT DIFFERENT
FROM YOURS,
SONIA.





OKAY, NOW THIS TIME, I'M SERIOUS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT BACK THERE. THINGS JUST GOT OUT OF CONTROL.

AND, THESE GUYS HELPED ME GET AWAY. THEY KEPT ME SAFE.



SHALL WE?



GUESS THAT'S MY CUE.



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH-- IT WAS FUN. SCARY AND CONFUSING. BUT, STILL....

YEAH, FUN.



CATCH YA, LATER.

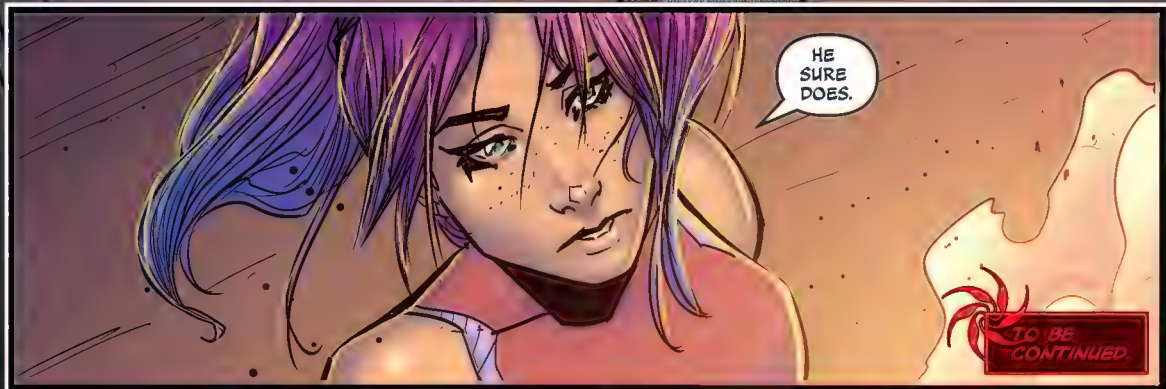




HE COULD
HAVE OFFERED
US A RIDE. RICH
PEOPLE ARE SO
OBLIVIOUS.

I DON'T
KNOW, P.J.
THE KID SEEMS
ALRIGHT
TO ME.

AND SAY
WHAT YOU WILL--
HE KNOWS HOW
TO MAKE AN
IMPRESSION.



HE
SURE
DOES.

TO BE
CONTINUED

J.T. KRUL | GIUSEPPE CAFARO | WES HARTMAN | ZEN



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#3

OF 8
COVER A



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A L L N E W MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

#3

OF 8
COVER B



The hunt for Malikai intensified as the forces of magic collided inside a trendy nightclub, with Grace nearly capturing him, but not before Onyx and Spark were able to fend her off. Meanwhile, ~~Sonia~~ Sonia found herself smitten with Malikai's brother. Benoist and PJ warned her to be cautious of anyone under the tutelage of Rainier...

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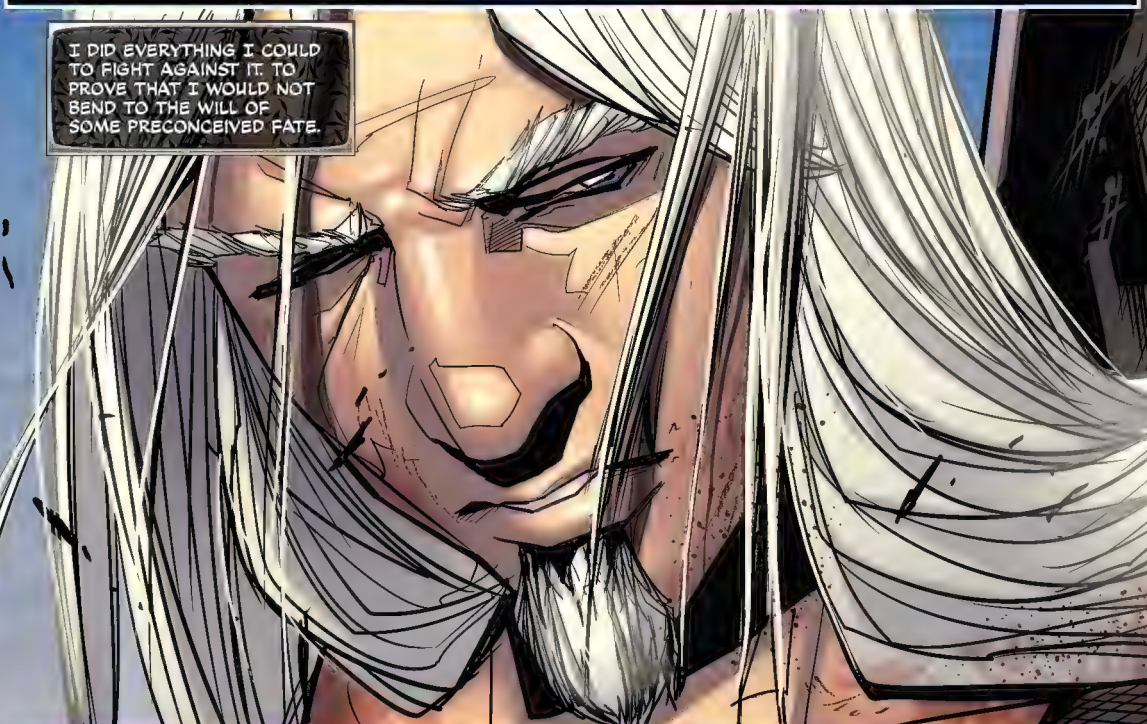
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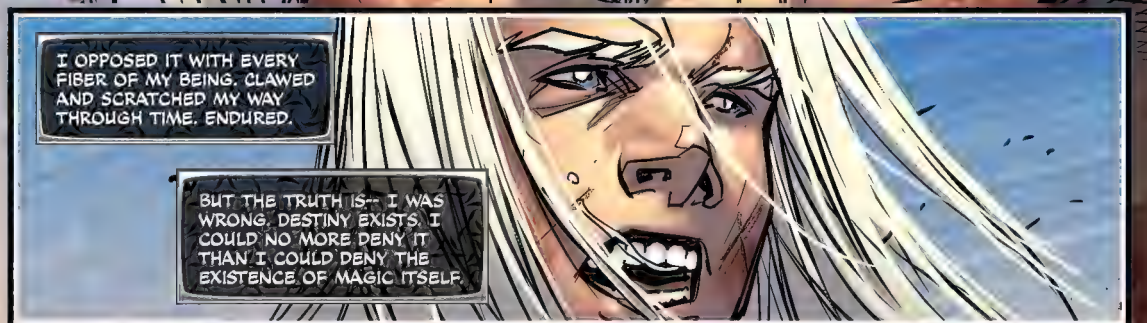
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FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I
DIDN'T BELIEVE IN DESTINY.

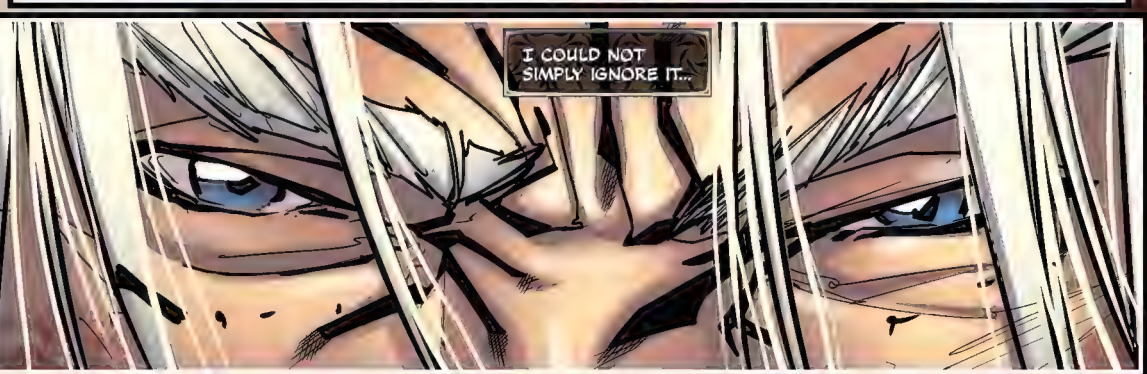


I DID EVERYTHING I COULD
TO FIGHT AGAINST IT. TO
PROVE THAT I WOULD NOT
BEND TO THE WILL OF
SOME PRECONCEIVED FATE.



I OPPOSED IT WITH EVERY
FIBER OF MY BEING. CLAWED
AND SCRATCHED MY WAY
THROUGH TIME. ENDURED.

BUT THE TRUTH IS-- I WAS
WRONG. DESTINY EXISTS. I
COULD NO MORE DENY IT
THAN I COULD DENY THE
EXISTENCE OF MAGIC ITSELF.



I COULD NOT
SIMPLY IGNORE IT...



BUT I VOWED
TO MAKE MY
OWN DESTINY.





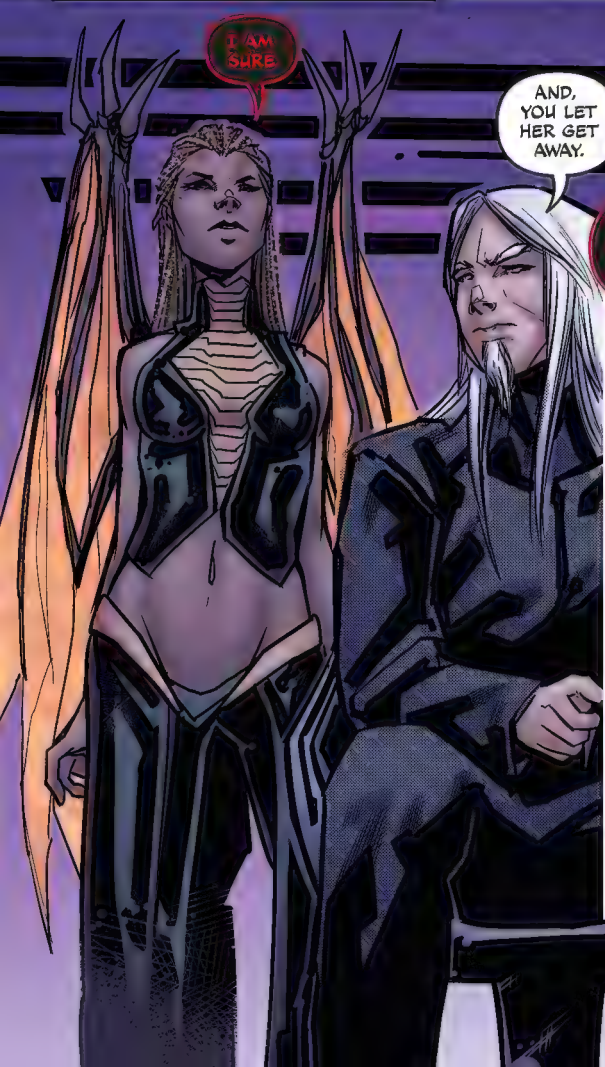
FOR CENTURIES, I SOUGHT TO POSSESS THE SAMUSARA. THAT UNIQUE SPIRIT THAT WOULD POWER THE NEXT AGE OF MAGIC. I KNEW THAT WAS THE KEY.



BUT, NEVER DID I THINK I WOULD FIND IT IN ONE SO YOUNG. FOR HOW COULD A BOY BE SO ENLIGHTENED?



ARE YOU SURE IT WAS HER? *GRACE?*



I AM SURE.

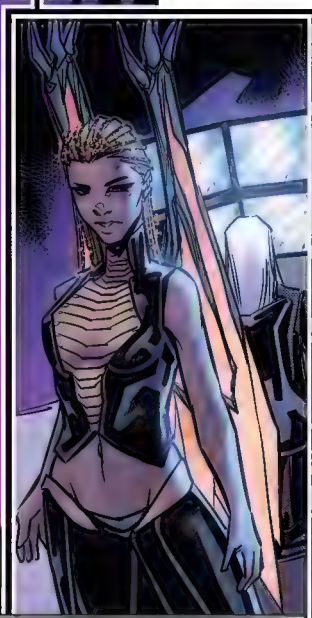
AND, YOU LET HER GET AWAY.

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TALK TO *SPARK* IF YOU DOUBT MY ABILITIES.

I DO NOT EXPECT YOU TO PLAY NICELY WITH OTHERS, *ONYX*. BUT, I DO EXPECT RESULTS.

YES, *RAINIER*.

FIND HER. BRING HER.



BUT MY YEARS OF HUNTING AFTER THE SAMUSARA TAUGHT ME TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.

TO LOOK CLOSELY.
PAY ATTENTION.

BEFORE

GIVEN THE MYSTERIES SURROUNDING HIS ORIGIN,
IT ONLY MADE SENSE THAT THE BOY WOULD BE
AN ORPHAN. STILL, IT WAS A CHALLENGE.

TO SAY HE WAS A NEEDLE
IN A HAYSTACK WOULD BE
AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

BUT I AM NOTHING
IF NOT PATIENT.

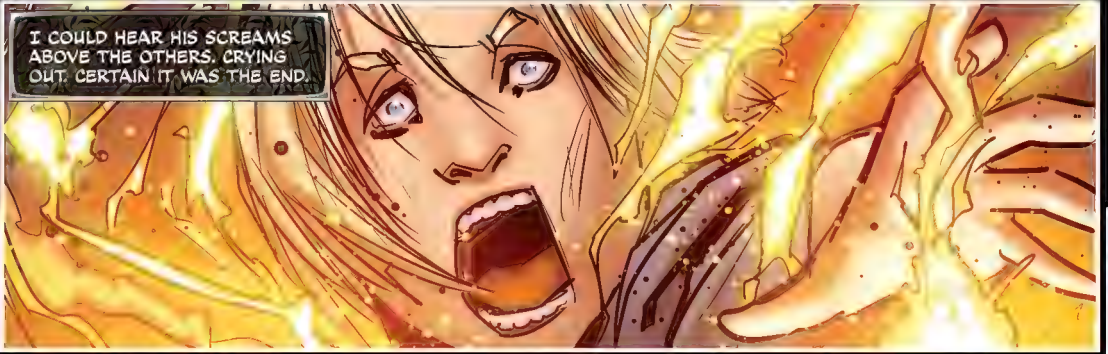
AND BESIDES, FINDING
THE NEEDLE CAN BE A
LOT EASIER, IF YOU DON'T
CARE ABOUT THE HAY.

ALL IT TAKES
IS A MATCH.

WHOOOSH



I COULD HEAR HIS SCREAMS
ABOVE THE OTHERS. CRYING
OUT. CERTAIN IT WAS THE END.



BUT, I KNEW THAT
THOUGH MANY THINGS
COULD KILL A SAMUSARA...



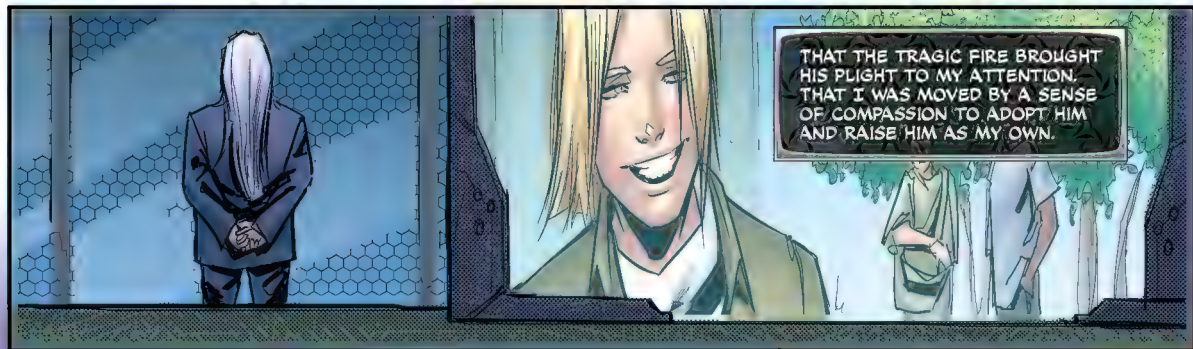
FIRE WAS NOT
ONE OF THEM.

I DON'T
BELIEVE IT!
H-HE'S
ALIVE.

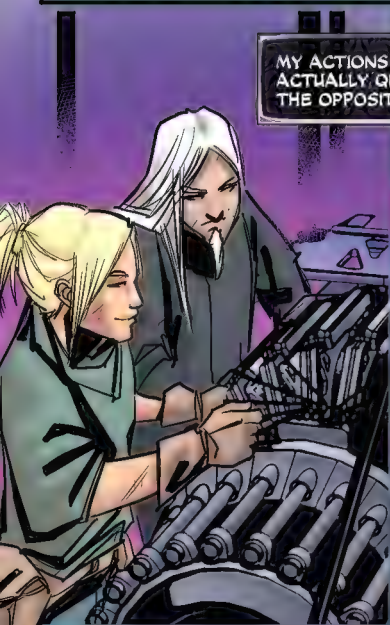




TO THE BOY, MY
ARRIVAL ALL SEEMED
LIKE SERENDIPITY.



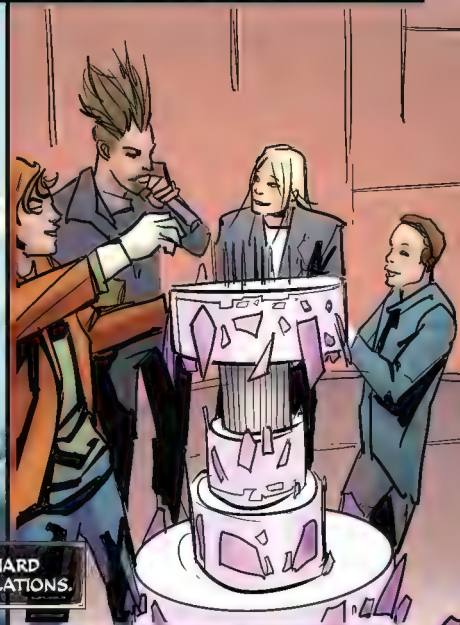
THAT THE TRAGIC FIRE BROUGHT
HIS PLIGHT TO MY ATTENTION.
THAT I WAS MOVED BY A SENSE
OF COMPASSION TO ADOPT HIM
AND RAISE HIM AS MY OWN.



MY ACTIONS WERE
ACTUALLY QUITE
THE OPPOSITE--



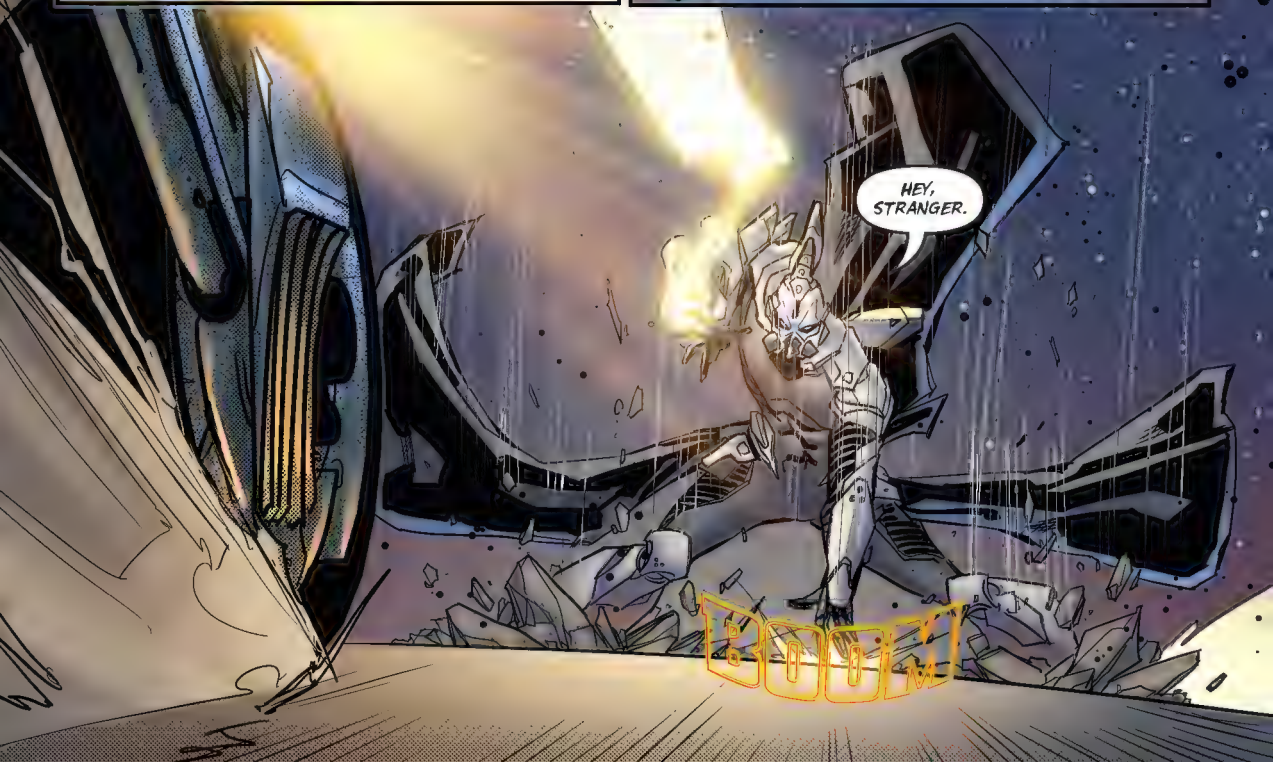
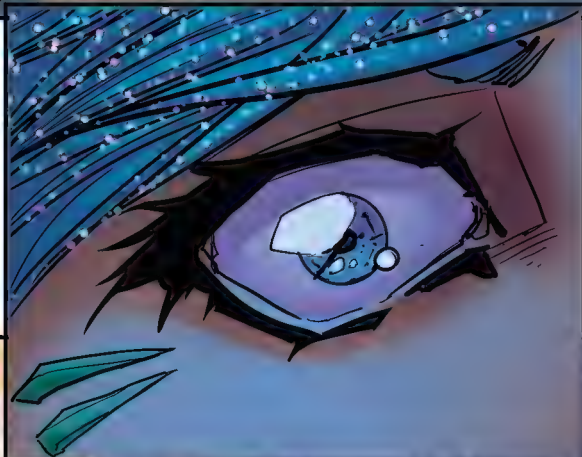
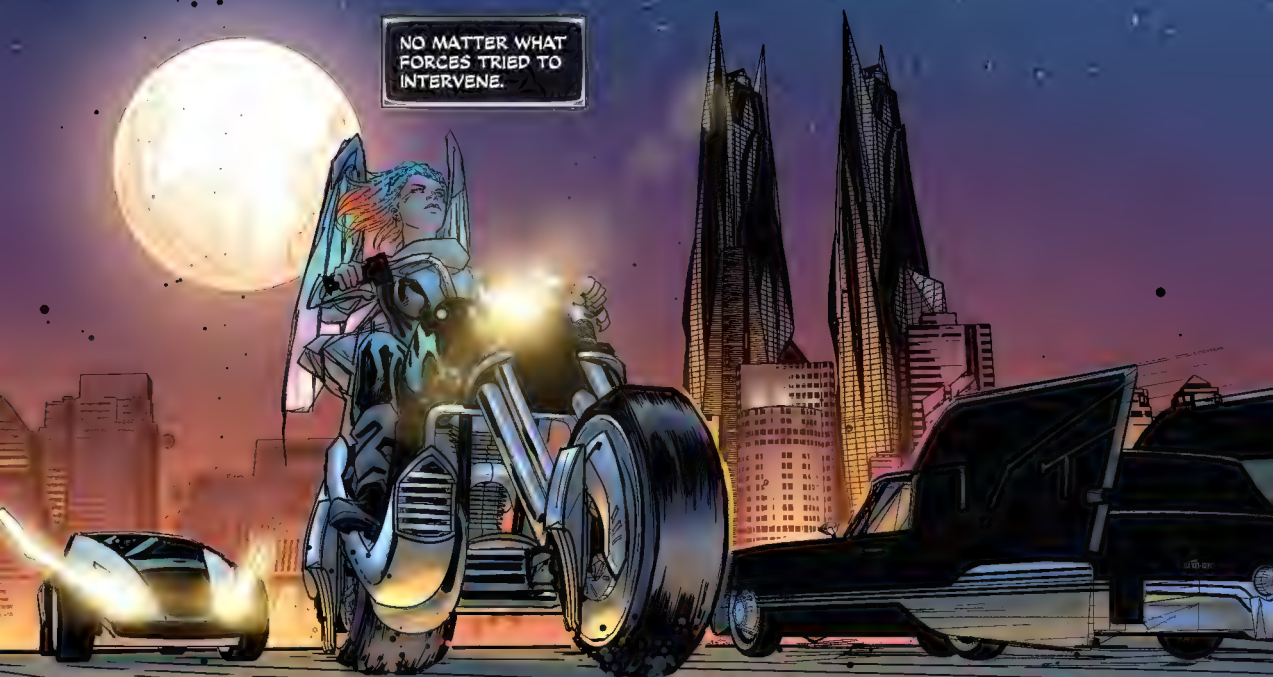
COLD, HARD
CALCULATIONS.



TO ME, THE BOY WAS NOT
MY WARD. HE WAS MY PRIZE.

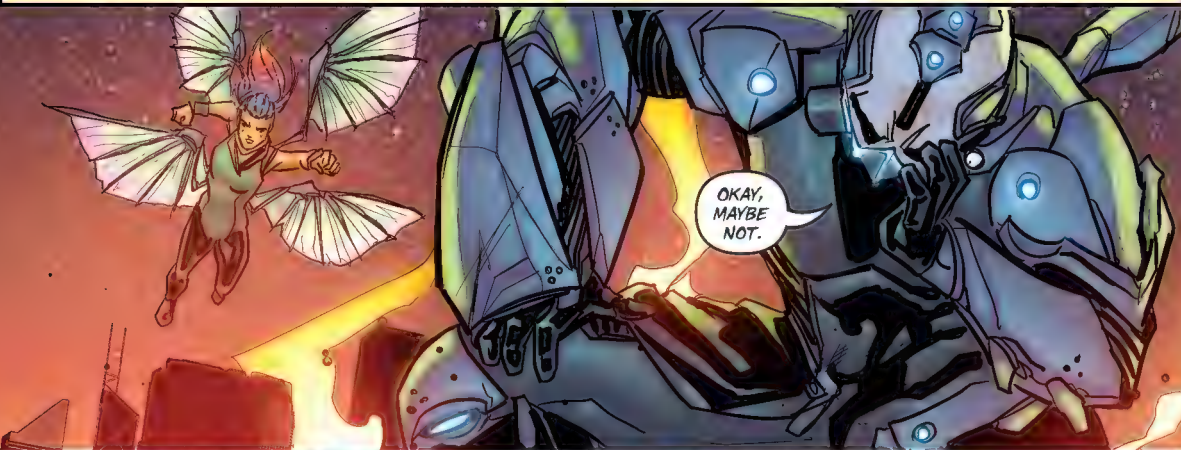
ONE THAT I WOULD
NEVER RELINQUISH...

NO MATTER WHAT
FORCES TRIED TO
INTERVENE.





BOOOOOOOZZZZSSSSSH!



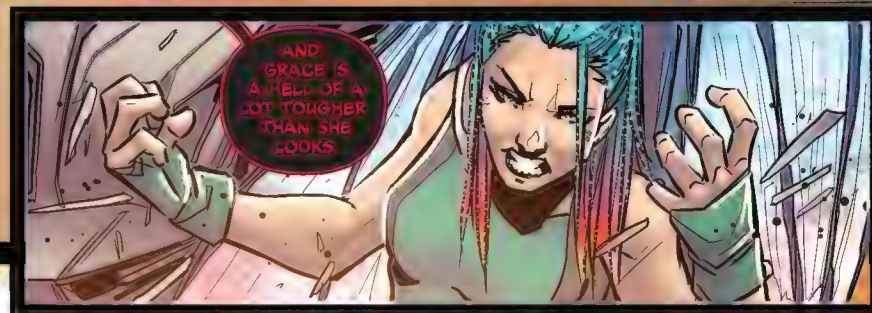
IF I KNEW YOU
WERE GOING TO RAMBLE
ON SO MUCH SPARK I NEVER
WOULD HAVE INCLUDED YOU
ON THIS MISSION!



HEY, I GET
IT. IT MUST HAVE
TAKEN A LOT FOR
YOU TO MAKE
THAT CALL.



I'M
NOT ONE
TO CHOK
ON MY OWN
PRIDE.



AND
GRACE IS
A HELL OF A
LOT TOUGHER
THAN SHE
LOOKS



AAAAAAHHHH!

THIS DANCE HAS BEEN GOING
ON FOR SO LONG, GRACE.



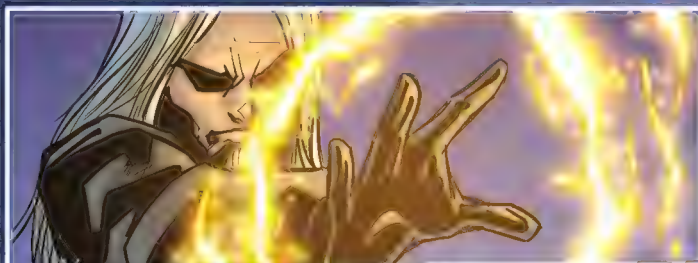
YOU'VE BEEN PART OF
THE BATTLE FOR AS LONG
AS I CAN REMEMBER.

WE FOUGHT FOR DOMINANCE.
WE FOUGHT FOR CONTROL.

LITTLE DID WE KNOW THAT THOSE
WOULD BE THE DYING DAYS OF
THE LAST GREAT AGE OF MAGIC.

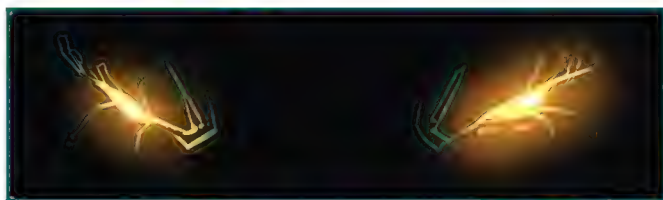
AND THAT ALL THE POWER WE
HELD WOULD SIMPLY EVAPORATE
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

THAT DAY I HAD TO
FACE THE REALITY
THAT THE POWER DID
NOT BELONG TO ME.



THAT NOTHING I COULD DO WOULD
MAKE ME INTRINSICALLY ALL-POWERFUL.

BUT THEN AGAIN, HAVING
POWER DOESN'T MEAN
MUCH UNLESS YOU
KNOW HOW TO USE IT.



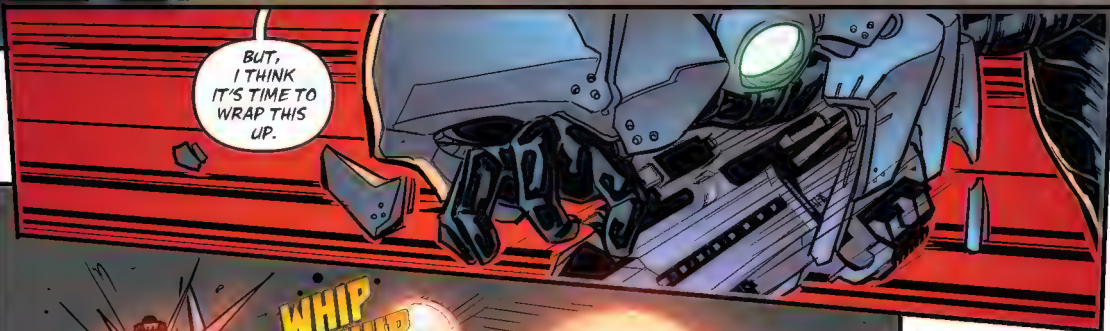
AND LIKEWISE, THE
REVERSE CAN BE TRUE.

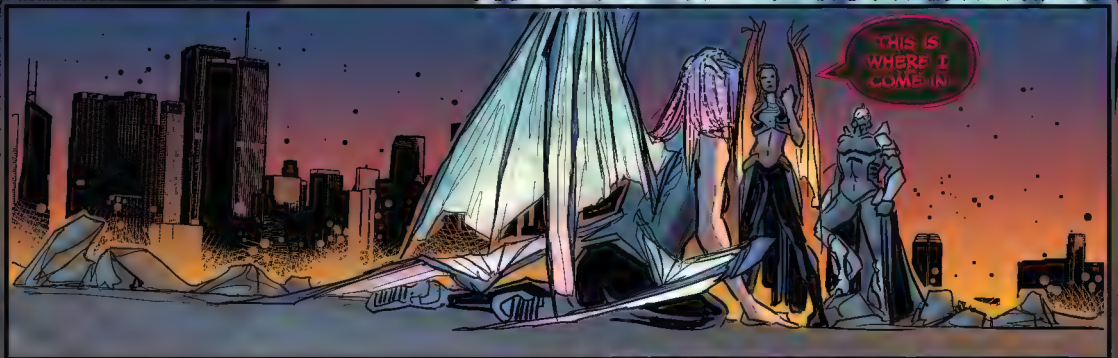
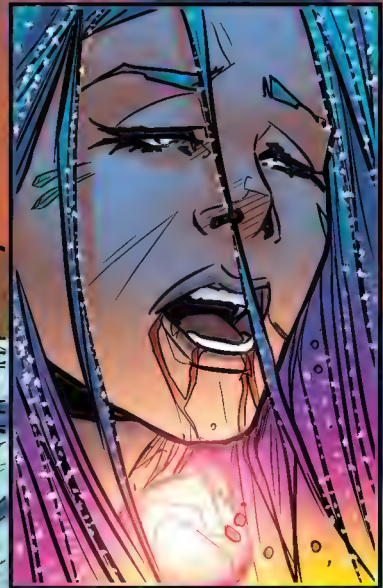


JUST BECAUSE YOU
DON'T HAVE POWER...



...THAT DOESN'T MEAN
YOU CAN'T LEARN
HOW TO CONTROL IT.



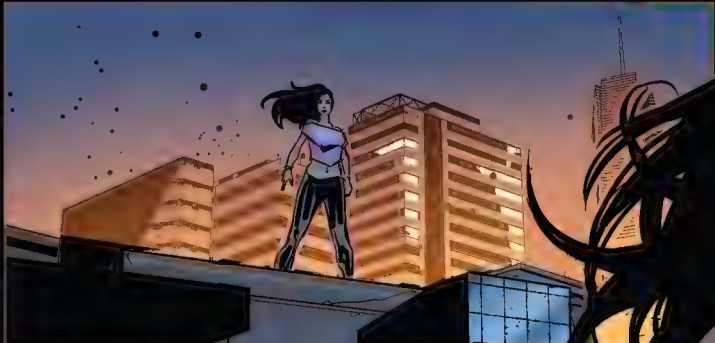


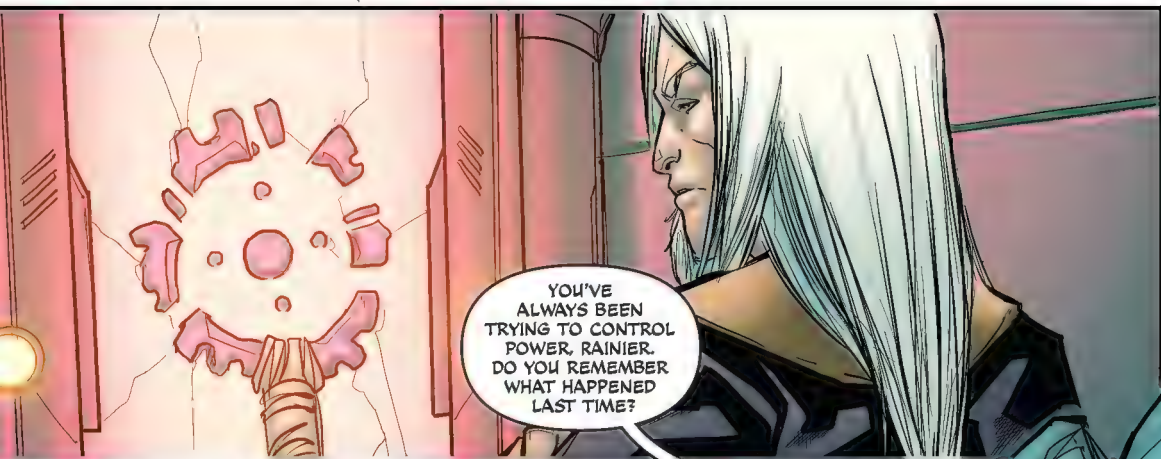


SO,
GAME OVER
THEN.

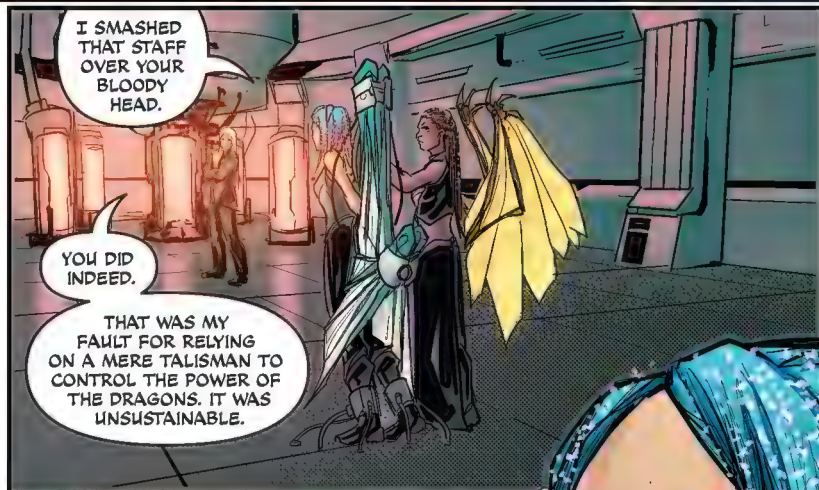
IT'S NOT A
GAME YOU IDIOT
RAINIER WANTS
HER ALIVE.

ALIVE?
WHAT
FOR?





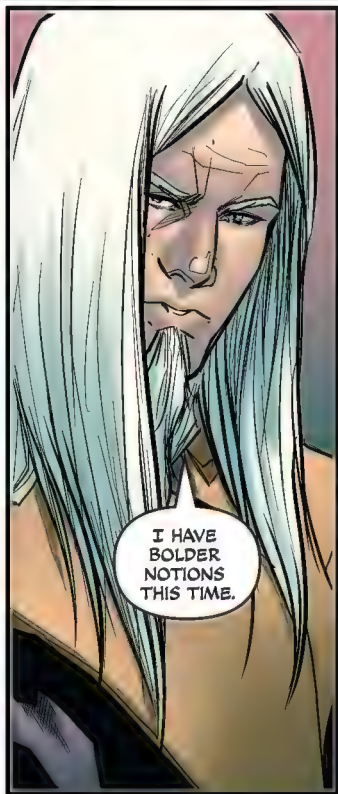
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN TRYING TO CONTROL POWER, RAINIER. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME?



I SMASHED THAT STAFF OVER YOUR BLOODY HEAD.

YOU DID INDEED.

THAT WAS MY FAULT FOR RELYING ON A MERE TALISMAN TO CONTROL THE POWER OF THE DRAGONS. IT WAS UNSUSTAINABLE.



I HAVE BOLDER NOTIONS THIS TIME.



LISTEN TO YOURSELF. YOU TALK ABOUT UNDERSTANDING YOUR PLACE. OF HUMILITY. YET, YOU HAVE THESE BIG PLANS AND BOLD AGENDAS.

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOU DON'T MATTER. NONE OF US DO. WE ARE ALL IRRELEVANT TO THE MAGIC IN THE WORLD.



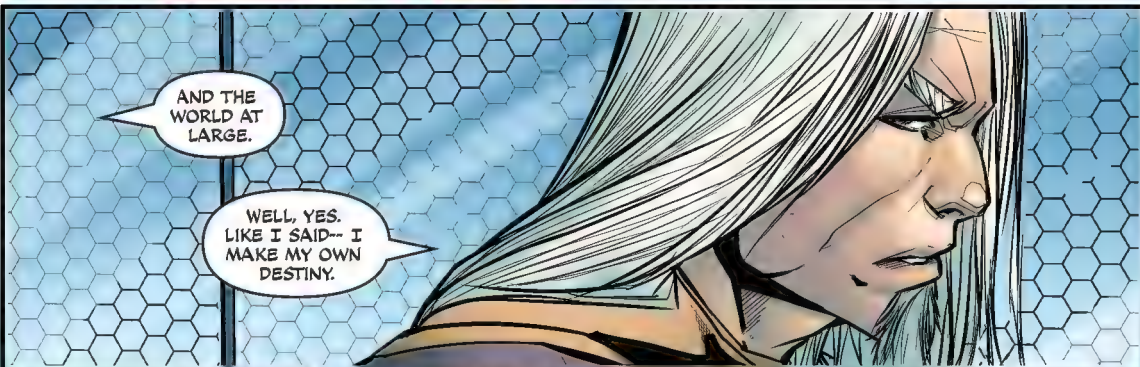
NOT TRUE. WE ALL
HAVE OUR PARTS
TO PLAY.

SMALL
PARTS PERHAPS.
INSIGNIFICANT
PARTS.



GRACE, YOU
MISUNDERSTAND ME
IF YOU THINK SUCH
WORDS HURT ME.

I AM
NOT SOME
MEGALOMANIACAL
CREATURE. I HAVE
NO DELUSIONS OF
GRANDEUR. ALL
I WANT IS SOME
SEMBLANCE OF
CONTROL IN
MY LIFE.



AND THE
WORLD AT
LARGE.

WELL, YES.
LIKE I SAID-- I
MAKE MY OWN
DESTINY.



YOU MIGHT
NOT BE ABLE
TO SEE THAT,
YET.



BUT, YOU
WILL.

J.T. KRUL | GIUSEPPE CAFARÒ | WES HARTMAN | ZEN



aspen
comics

Vol. 6

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

#4

OF 8
COVER A



WesFlo



Volume 1

GIUSEPPE CAFARO | WES HARTMAN | ZEN

ALL NEW

MICHAEL TURNER'S

SOULFIRE

#4

OF 8
COVER B



Rainier's tragic past has forged a rage fueled present that will stop at nothing to achieve his dark aims—including burning down an orphanage filled with children. However, as Grace horrifically discovers, his most sinister plan yet has already been set into motion after he successfully captured-- and is holding hostage-- all five ~~of the~~ original Masters.

ASPEN COMICS PRESENTS:

All New Soulfire

PART 4 of 8

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writer

Giuseppe Cafaro
pencils & inks

Wes Hartman
colors

Zen
letters

Vince Hernandez, Gabe Carrasco —editors

Mark Roslan, Peter Steigerwald, Gabe Carrasco —design & production



Direct Edition
by - **GIUSEPPE CAFARO**
s - **WES HARTMAN**



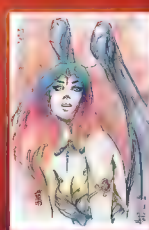
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AERICAN TERRITORY
BEFORE

MAGIC HAS EXISTED SINCE THE
DAWN OF THE UNIVERSE, BUT
ITS POWER HAS EBBED AND
FLOWED OVER THE YEARS.

GIVING US TIMES OF LIGHT
AND TIMES OF DARKNESS.

AT THE CENTER OF IT
ALL IS THE SAMUSARA-- A
UNIQUE SPIRIT THAT SERVES
AS A CATALYST FOR THE
STRENGTH OF MAGIC.

OVER THE CENTURIES, SOME OF
US HOLD A SPECIAL DUTY TO FIND
THE SAMUSARA AND HELP THEM
ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL.

HELP GUIDE THEM TO ENLIGHTENMENT,
SO THEY MIGHT BRING ABOUT
A RETURN TO MAGIC FOR ALL.

SINCE THE LAST DYING OF
THE LIGHT, WE HAVE DEDICATED
OUR LIVES TO THIS ENDEAVOR.

WE HAVE COME CLOSE ON A FEW
OCCASIONS, BUT THE SAMUSARA
WAS SIMPLY NOT READY.

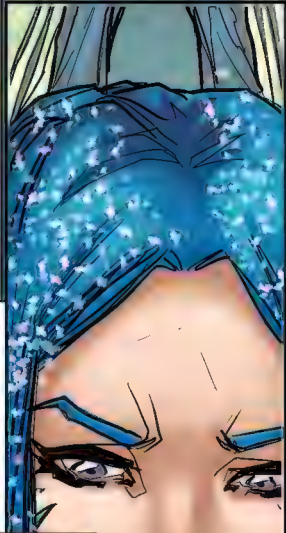
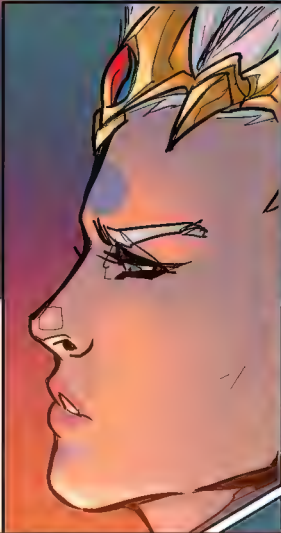
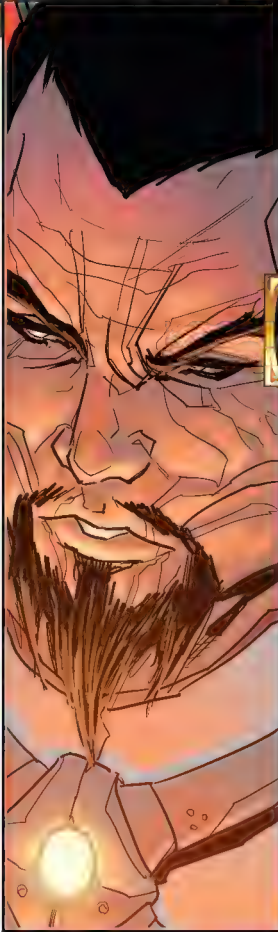


THIS TIME, THE SAMUSARA HAS COME IN THE FORM OF A BOY NAMED MALIKAI.

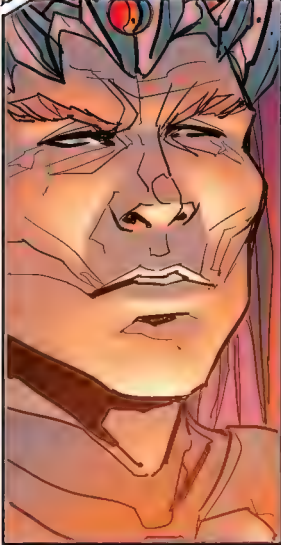
BUT INSTEAD OF BEING AT HIS SIDE TO AID HIM, WE ARE LOCKED AWAY, PRISONERS OF THE VERY MAN WHO PRETENDS TO BE HIS GUARDIAN-- RAINIER.

KAMEA IS THE KEY. HIS DUTY IS TO OPEN THE DOOR FOR THE SAMUSARA TO ALL THE WONDERS THE UNIVERSE HOLDS.

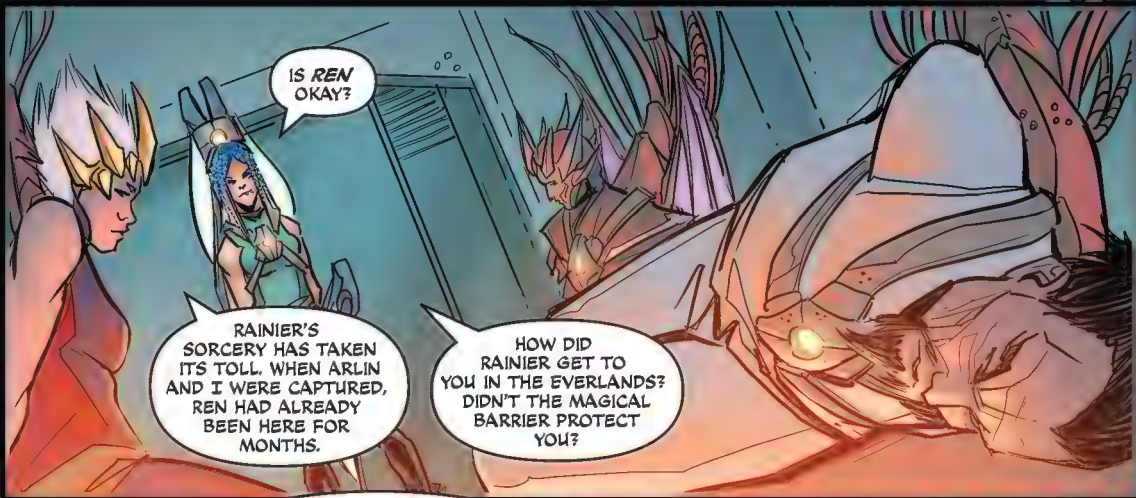
REN IS THE HAND. HIS ROLE IS TO TEACH THE SAMUSARA TO MERGE THE PHYSICAL AND THE SPIRITUAL-- TO HARNESS THE POWER OF MAGIC.



FAYE AND ARLIN REPRESENT THE DUALITY OF MAGIC. THE RAHTUMI AND THE SETHORI. THE ORDER AND THE CHAOS. THE LIGHT AND THE DARK.



AS FOR ME, I AM THE WAY.



IS REN
OKAY?

RAINIER'S
SORCERY HAS TAKEN
ITS TOLL. WHEN ARLIN
AND I WERE CAPTURED,
REN HAD ALREADY
BEEN HERE FOR
MONTHS.

HOW DID
RAINIER GET TO
YOU IN THE EVERLANDS?
DIDN'T THE MAGICAL
BARRIER PROTECT
YOU?



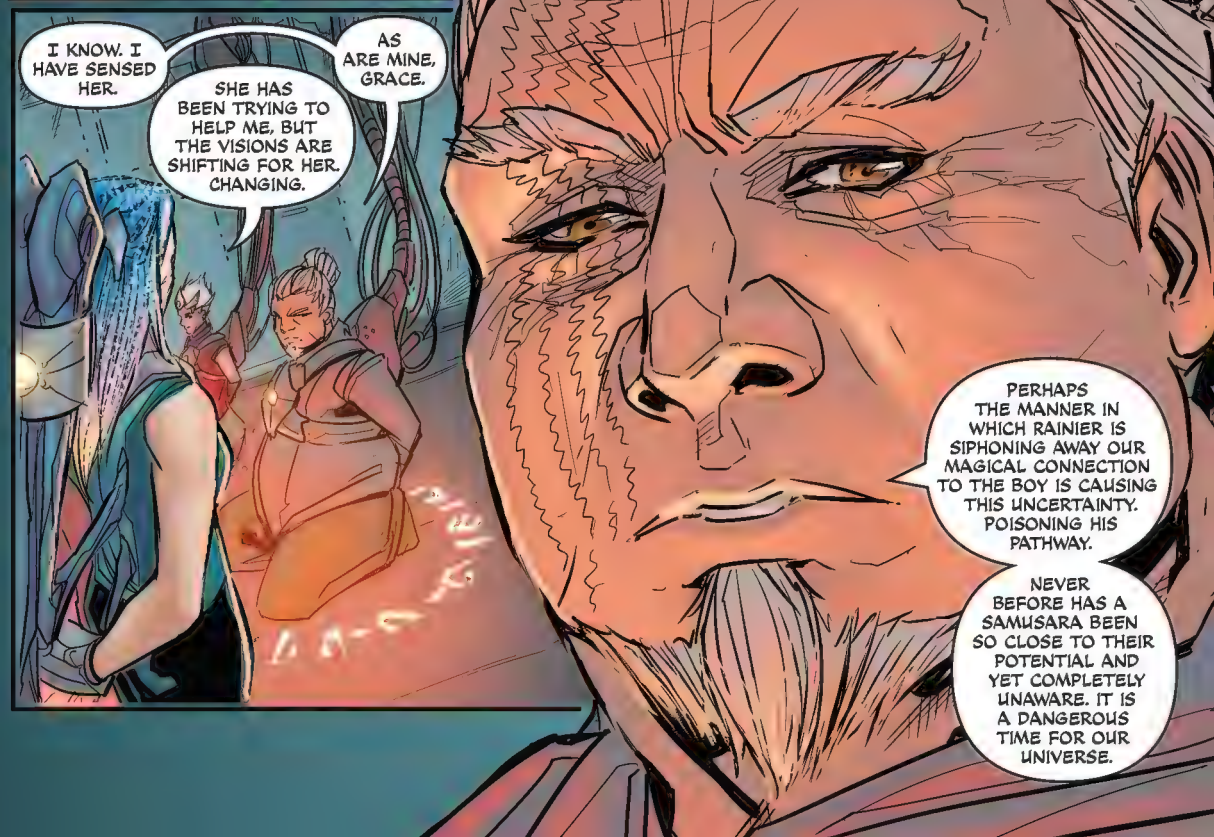
IT SEEMS
HE HAS THOSE
LOYAL TO HIM
EVEN IN OUR
HOLY LAND.

I SUPPOSE YOU
MEAN SETHORU, FAYE.
JUST BECAUSE ONYX
HAS BETRAYED US, THAT
DOES NOT MEAN ALL
SETHORU HAVE.

THERE WERE
NO RAHTUMI TRAITORS,
ARLIN. OF THAT, I CAN
ASSURE YOU.

ONYX GOT
THE BEST OF
ME, BUT I AM
NOT ALONE IN
THE CITY.

PILI IS
HERE AS
WELL.



I KNOW. I
HAVE SENSED
HER.

SHE HAS
BEEN TRYING TO
HELP ME, BUT
THE VISIONS ARE
SHIFTING FOR HER.
CHANGING.

AS
ARE MINE,
GRACE.

PERHAPS
THE MANNER IN
WHICH RAINIER IS
SIPHONING AWAY OUR
MAGICAL CONNECTION
TO THE BOY IS CAUSING
THIS UNCERTAINTY.
POISONING HIS
PATHWAY.

NEVER
BEFORE HAS A
SAMUSARA BEEN
SO CLOSE TO THEIR
POTENTIAL AND
YET COMPLETELY
UNWARE. IT IS
A DANGEROUS
TIME FOR OUR
UNIVERSE.



NO.



WAIT, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO ASK YET!

FINE. GO AHEAD.

OKAY, I KNOW THINGS HAVE BEEN A LITTLE CHAOTIC THE LAST FEW TIMES I'VE GONE OUT, BUT IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS AND I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE THIS PLACE IS A PRISON--

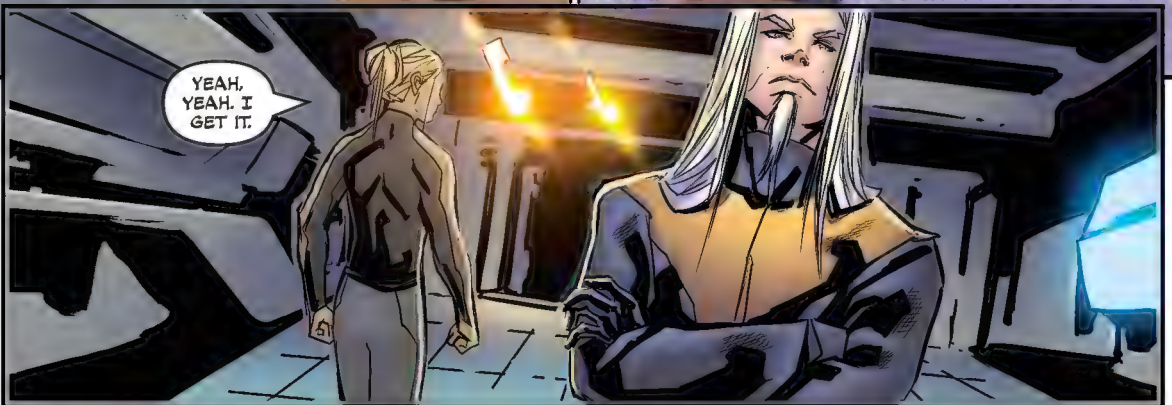
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. I'M FEELING COOPED UP. I NEED TO GET OUT. NOTHING BIG. JUST TO THE MALL. OR DOWN TO THE WHARF. SOMETHING, ANYTHING.

WHAT DO YA SAY?

--YOU DON'T *KNOW* WHAT A PRISON IS LIKE, MALIKAI.

NO. I'M SORRY, MALIKAI, BUT THIS LATEST INCIDENT HAS GIVEN ME CAUSE FOR CONCERN. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WOULD WISH YOU HARM. IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO GET AT ME. AND, I WILL NOT ALLOW THAT.

YOU MEAN TOO MUCH TO ME. YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?



YEAH, YEAH. I GET IT.



PJ, WHERE IS THE TOGGLE WRENCH?

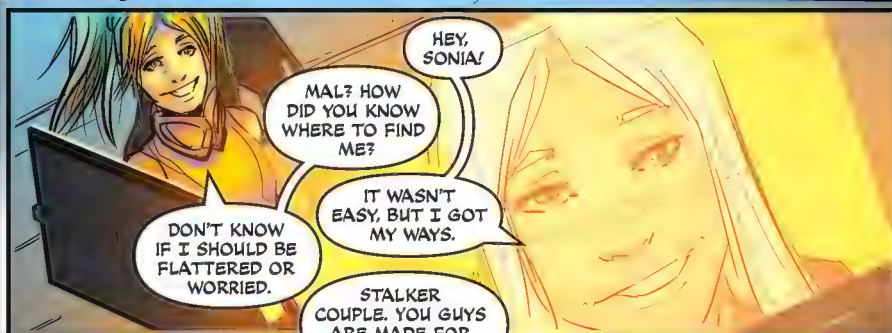
DUNNO. MAYBE *SOMIA* CAN TAKE A BREAK FROM STALKING MALIKAI AND GIVE US A HAND.

I'M NOT STALKING. I'M JUST... CURIOUS.



SPECIAL DELIVERY. *BENOIST*.

I DIDN'T ORDER ANY PACKAGE TODAY.



HEY, SONIA!

MAL? HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME?

DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE FLATTERED OR WORRIED.

IT WASN'T EASY, BUT I GOT MY WAYS.

STALKER COUPLE. YOU GUYS ARE MADE FOR EACH OTHER.



HEY, PJ!

WHAT UP, DUDE?

NOT MUCH. YOU?

AW, YOU KNOW-- MAKING IT HAPPEN.



SO, HOW BEEN?

GOOD GOOD. LOOK, I WAS JUST... UM... WONDERING...

I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WANTED-- I MEAN, YOU COULD ALL COME-- UM, OVER TO MY PLACE. FIGURED WE COULD JUST HANG OUT AND STUFF. I MEAN, IF YOU WANT.



SURE! LIKE AT YOUR HOUSE?

SORT OF.



MALIKAI LIVES HERE?

IT'S THE ADDRESS HE GAVE.

MAYBE, YOU FLUSTERED HIM, SONIA, AND HE GAVE THE OFFICE ADDRESS BY ACCIDENT.



MS. SONIA?



UM, YEAH?

HA! MS. SONIA. HILARIOUS.



I MEAN IT, P.J. DON'T PESTER ME.

SURE THING... MS. SONIA.

GAAAAH!

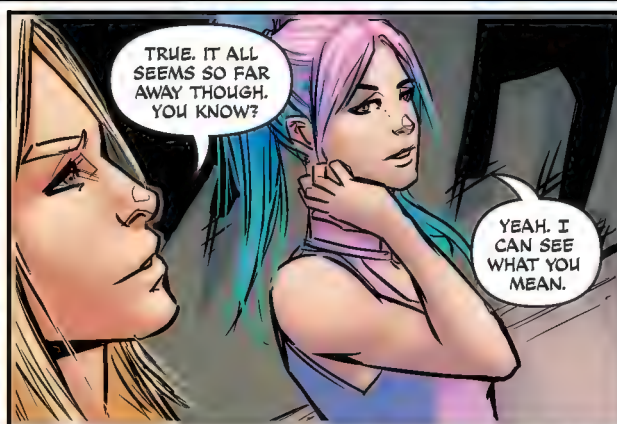
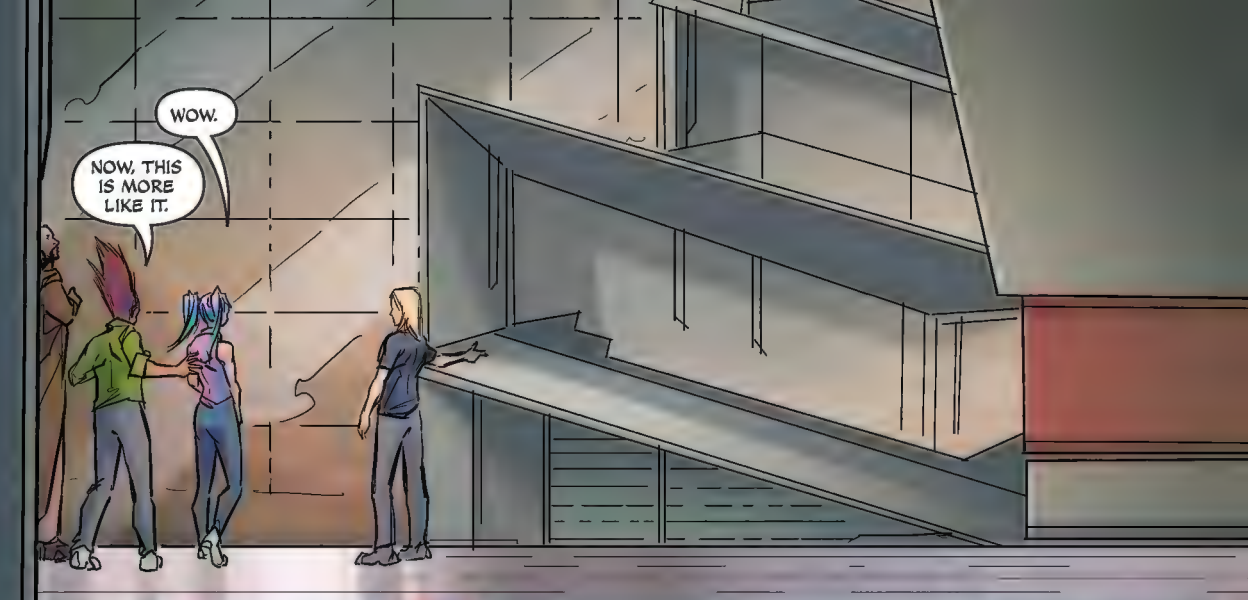
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, BIG GUY.



YOU MADE IT! WELCOME!

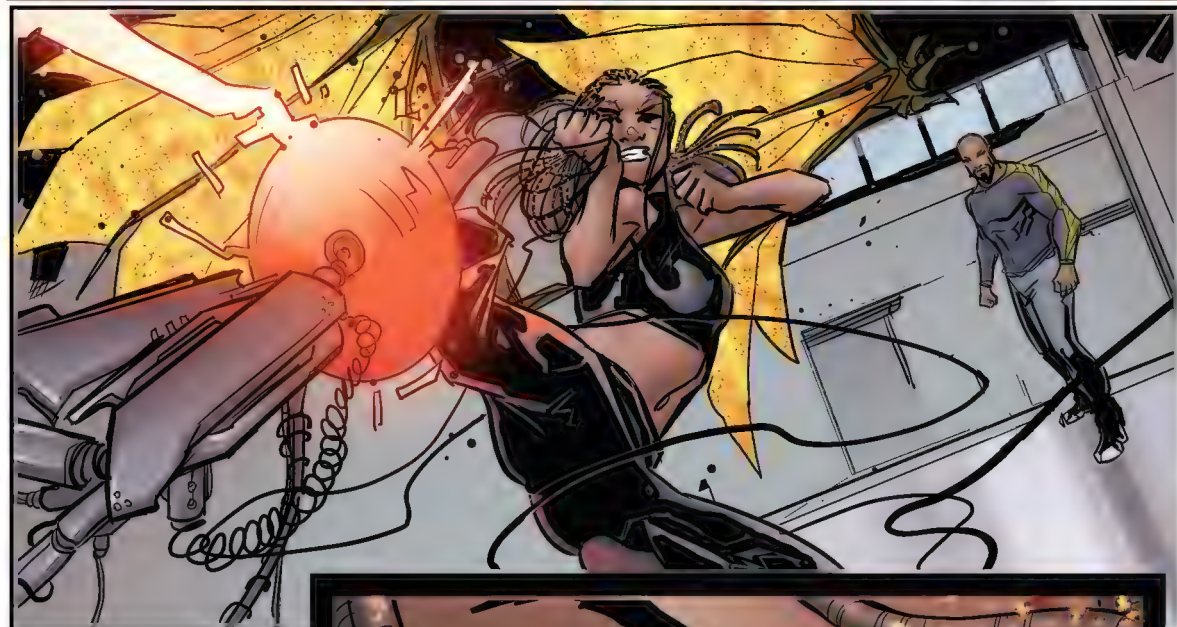
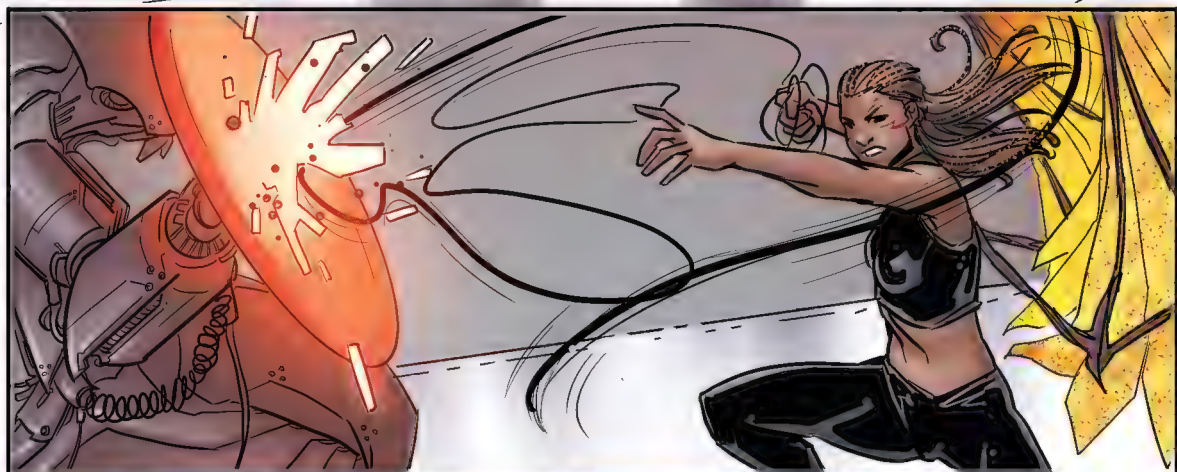
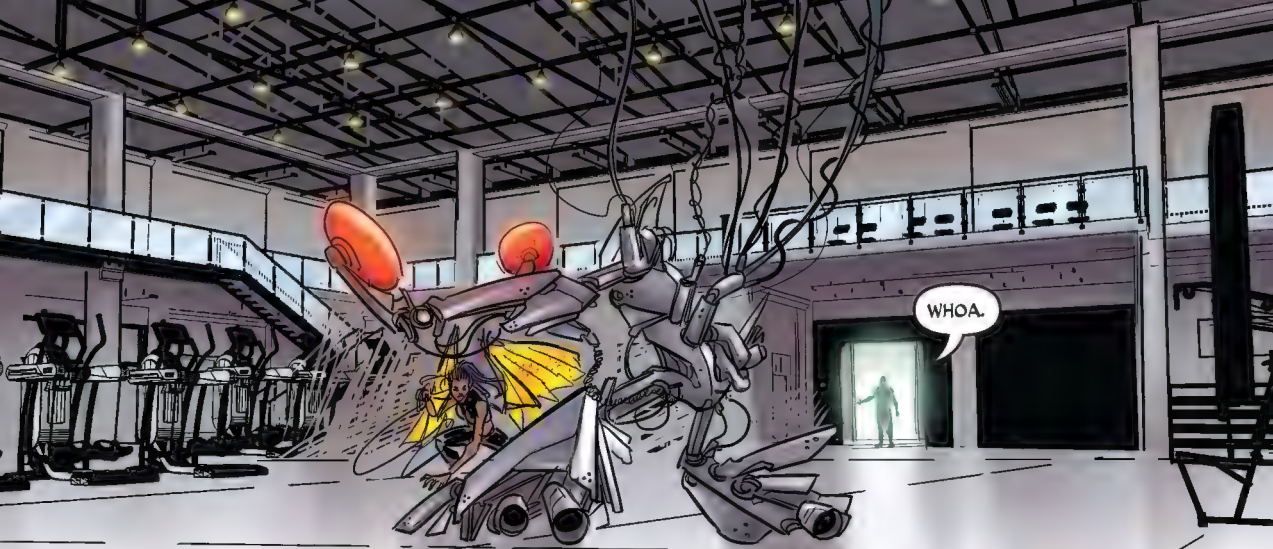
HOME SWEET HOME. DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT AS STUFFY AS IT LOOKS.

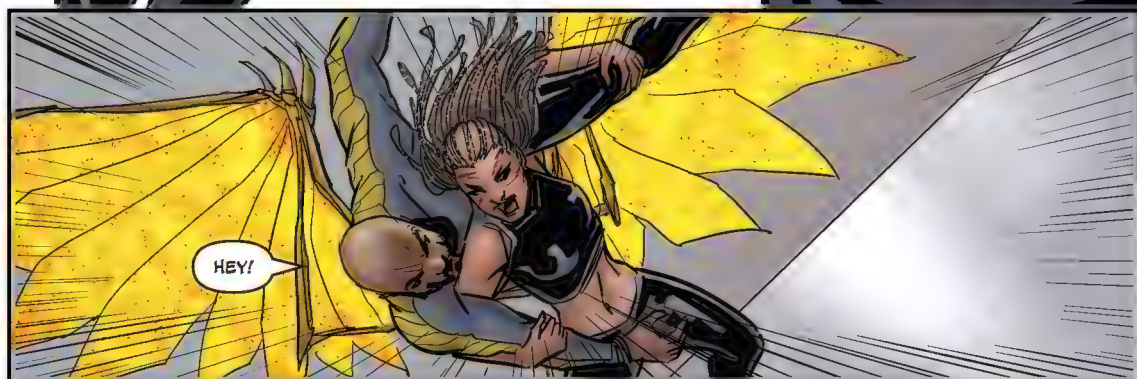
YOU REALLY LIVE HERE, MAL?

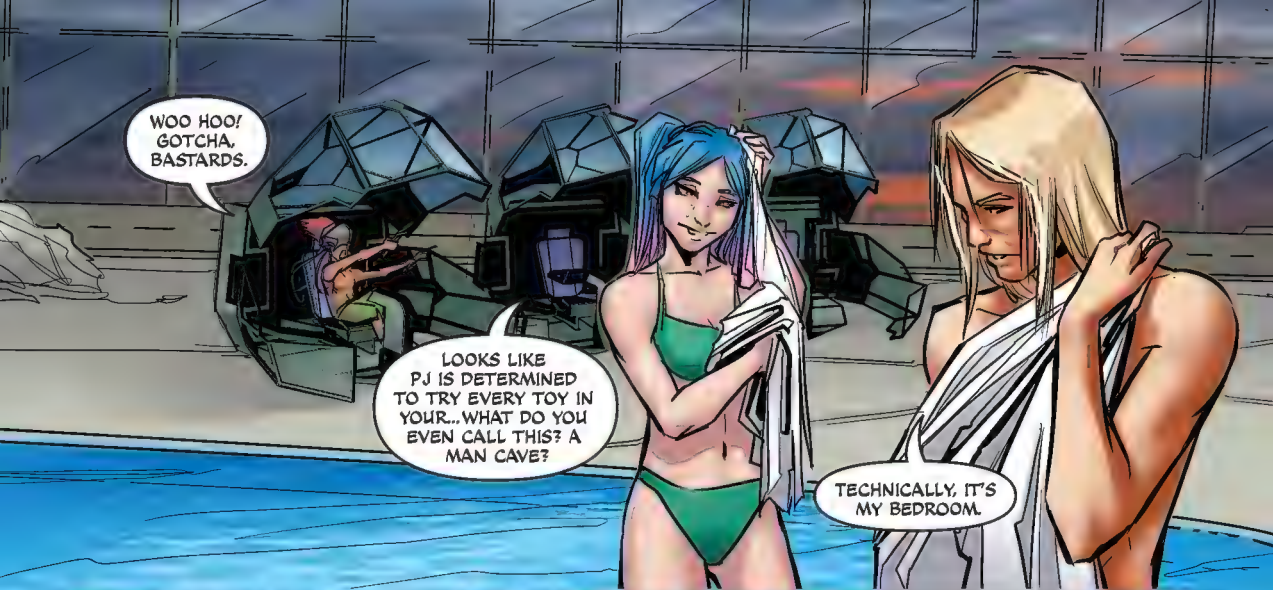








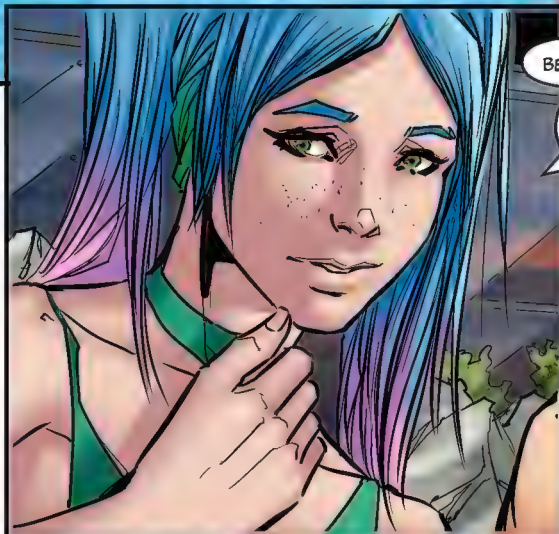




WOO HOO!
GOTCHA,
BASTARDS.

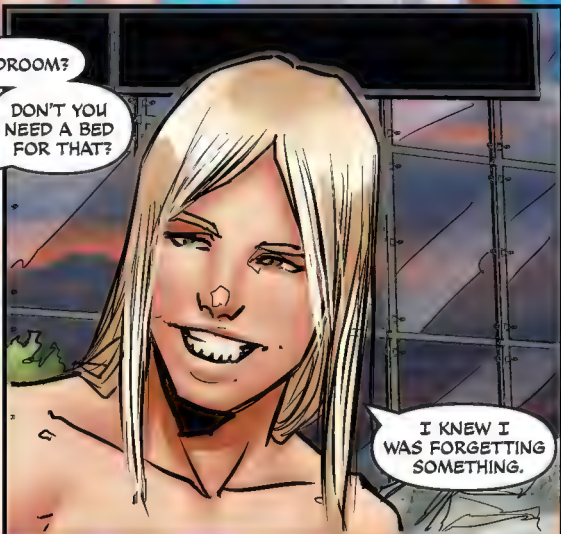
LOOKS LIKE
PJ IS DETERMINED
TO TRY EVERY TOY IN
YOUR...WHAT DO YOU
EVEN CALL THIS? A
MAN CAVE?

TECHNICALLY, IT'S
MY BEDROOM.

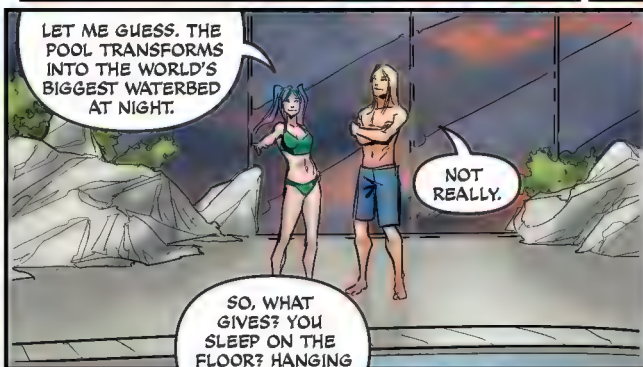


BEDROOM?

DON'T YOU
NEED A BED
FOR THAT?



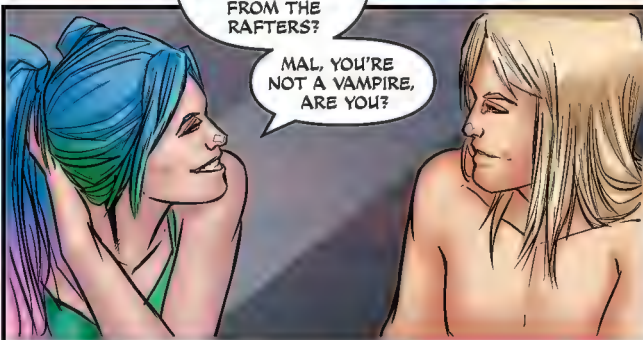
I KNEW I
WAS FORGETTING
SOMETHING.



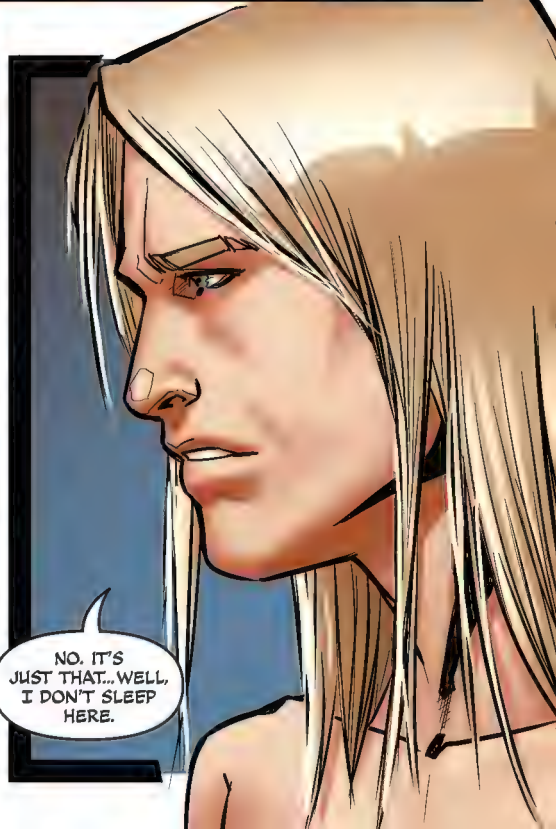
LET ME GUESS. THE
POOL TRANSFORMS
INTO THE WORLD'S
BIGGEST WATERBED
AT NIGHT.

NOT
REALLY.

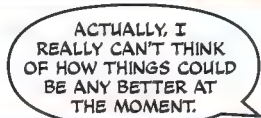
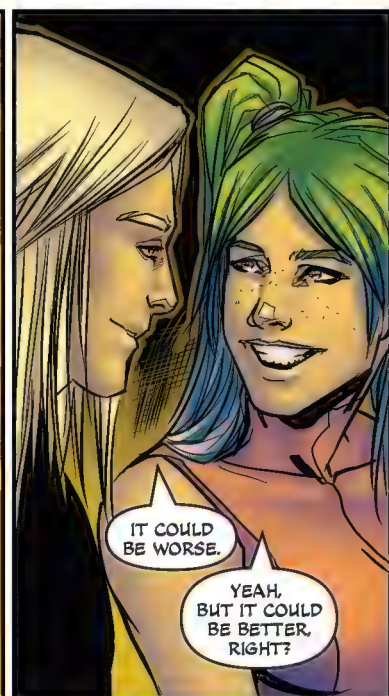
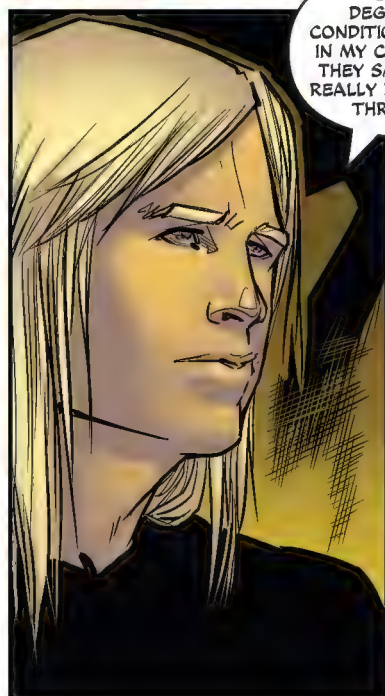
SO, WHAT
GIVES? YOU
SLEEP ON THE
FLOOR? HANGING
FROM THE
RAFTERS?

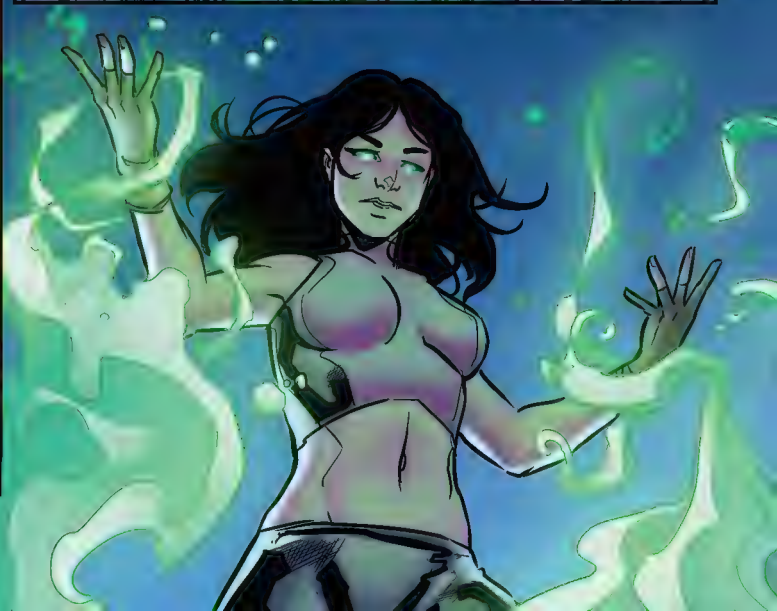
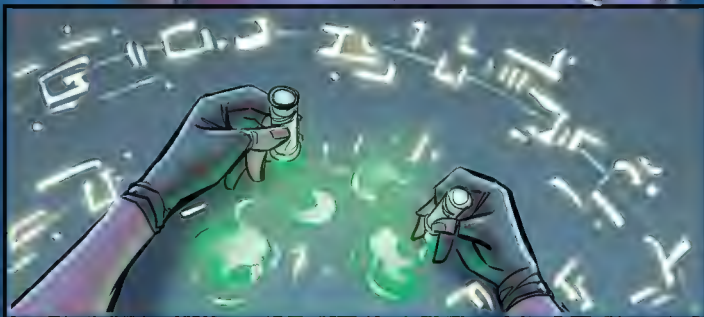
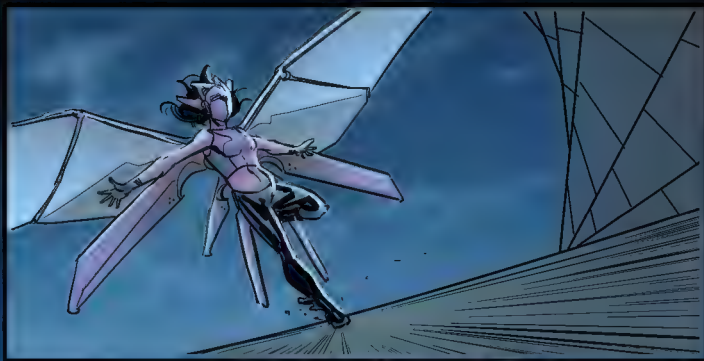
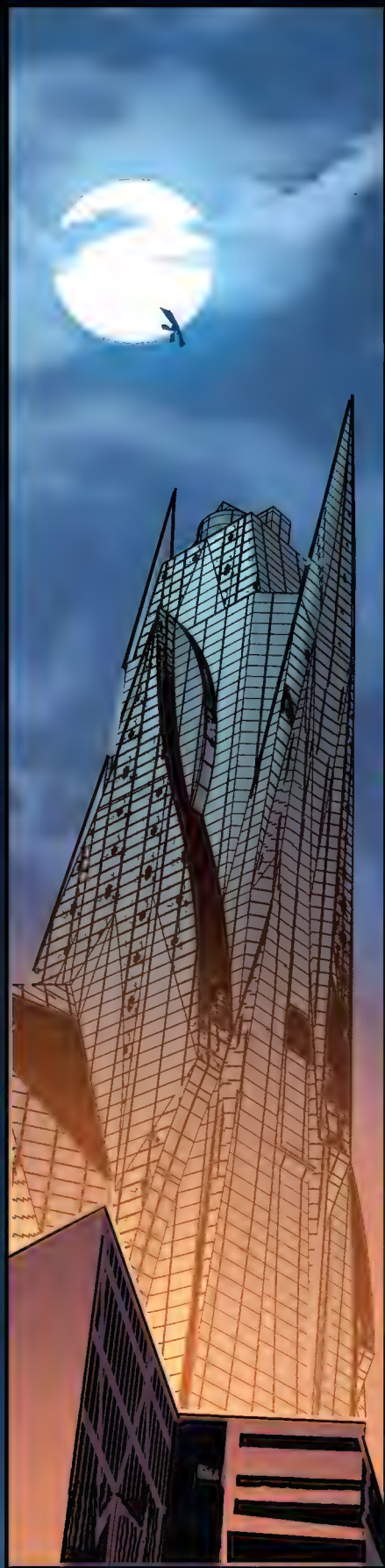


MAL, YOU'RE
NOT A VAMPIRE,
ARE YOU?

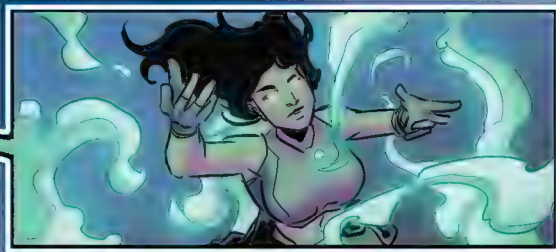


NO. IT'S
JUST THAT...WELL,
I DON'T SLEEP
HERE.

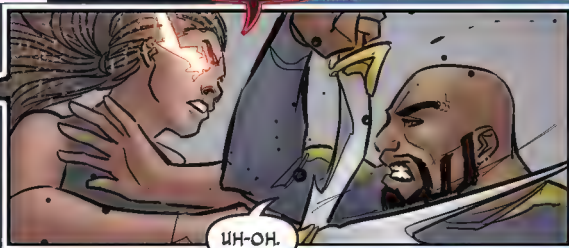




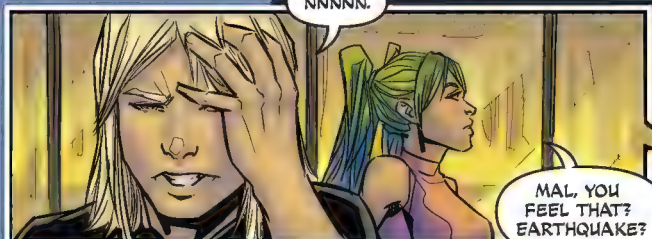




KAAAAAH!

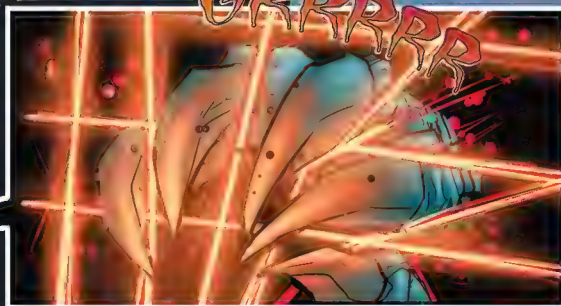


UH-OH.

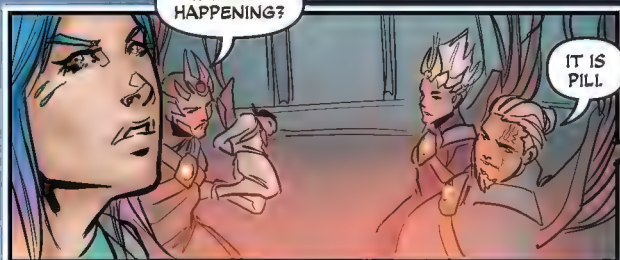


NNNNN.

MAL, YOU
FEEL THAT?
EARTHQUAKE?



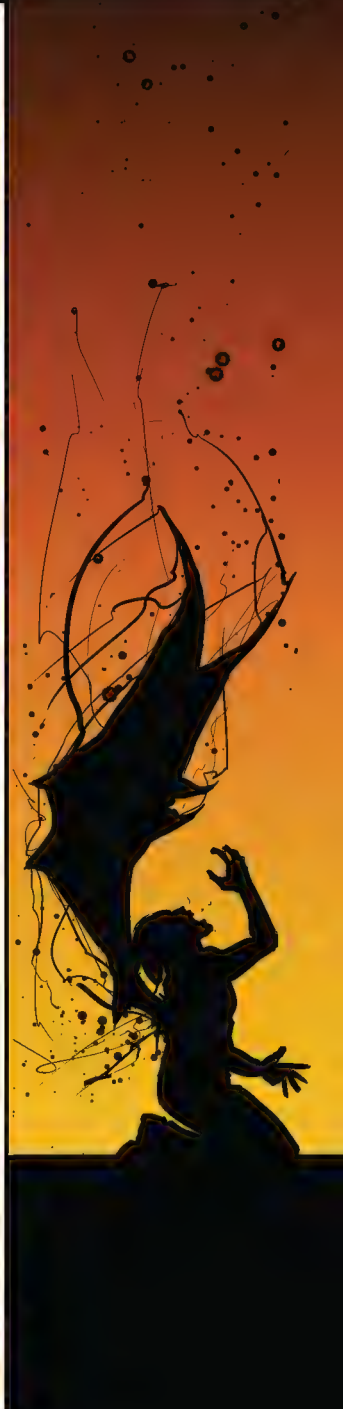
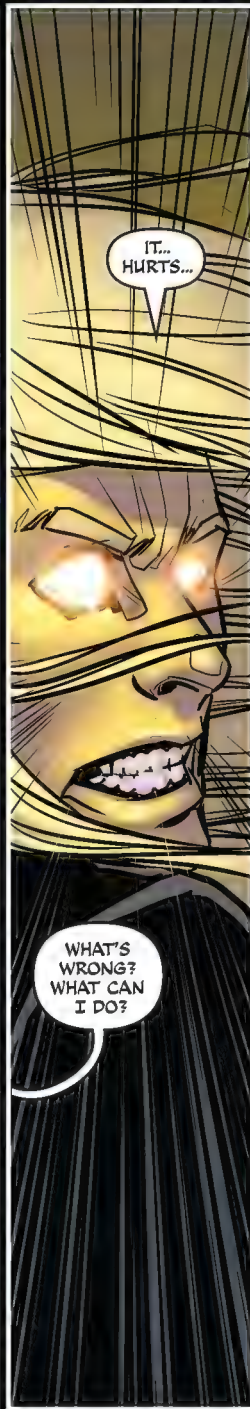
GRRRRR



WHAT IS
HAPPENING?

IT IS
PILL.







MAL??

TO BE
CONTINUED



aspen
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Vol. 6

J. L. KRUL | KIMBLEE CAPPAS | MIKE HARTMAN | ZEN

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

#5

OF 8
COVER A



WesFlo

J.T. KRUL | GIUSEPPE CAFARO | WES HARTMAN | ZEN



ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

#5

OF 8
COVER B



Rainier strictly forbade Malikai from going out in public again, so Malikai instead brought the party to Rainier Tower as he asked Sonia, PJ and Benoist to be his invited guests. Malikai and Sonia soon began to connect on an emotional level, although red flags continued to arise in both Malikai and Benoist's minds. Yet, nothing could prepare them for Pili's arrival, or rather introduction on top of the skyscraper, as her magical infusion of energy to the captive Malikai triggered a painful sprouting of wings on Malikai — to Sonia's horror.

ASPEN COMICS PRESENTS:

All New Soulfire

PART 5 of 8

J.T. Krul
writer

Giuseppe Cafaro
pencils & inks

Wes Hartman
colors

Zen
letters

Vince Hernandez, Gabe Carrasco —editors

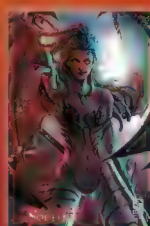
Mark Roslan, Peter Steigerwald, Gabe Carrasco —design & production



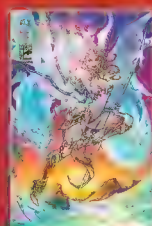
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Vice President/Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ / Vice President/Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN / Editor: GABE CARRASCO
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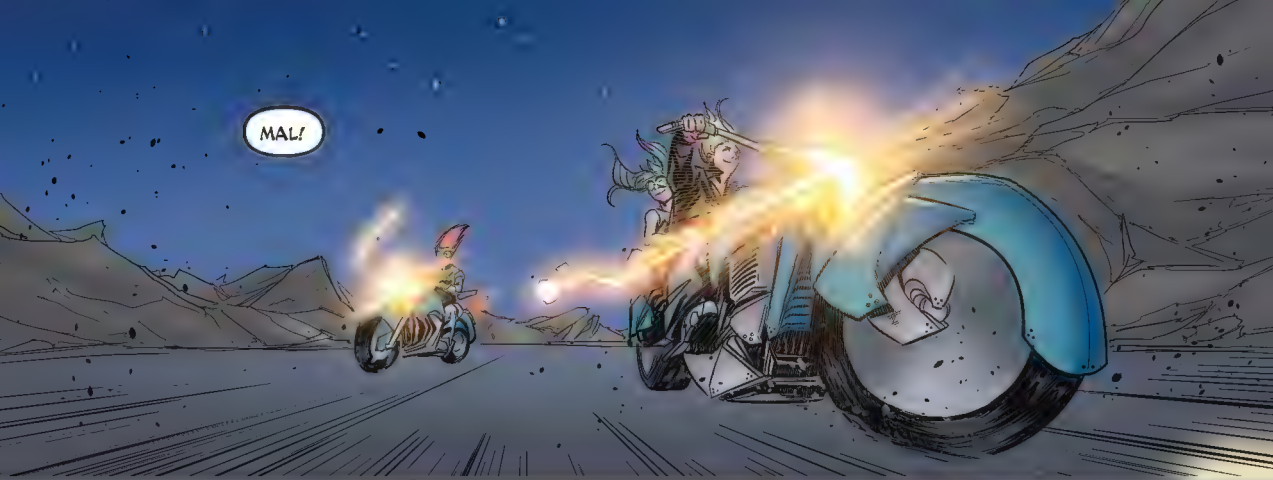
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MAL?



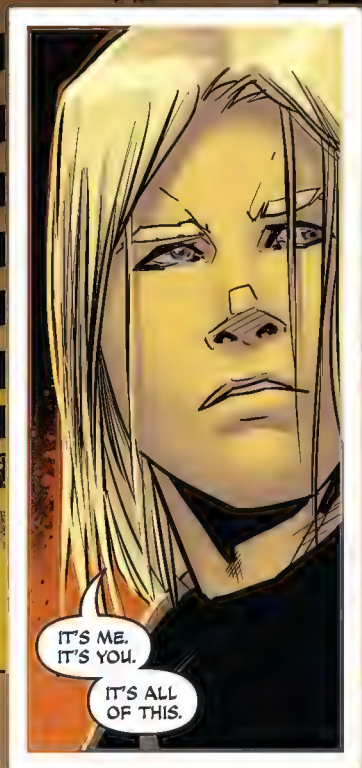
SONIA...

I FEEL...
STRANGE.



UM...YOU LOOK
STRANGE. YOU HAVE
WINGS STICKING OUT OF
YOUR BACK. AND TRUST
ME, THEY AREN'T
CYBERNETIC.

I KNOW,
BUT BELIEVE IT
OR NOT, THAT'S NOT
THE WEIRDEST
PART.

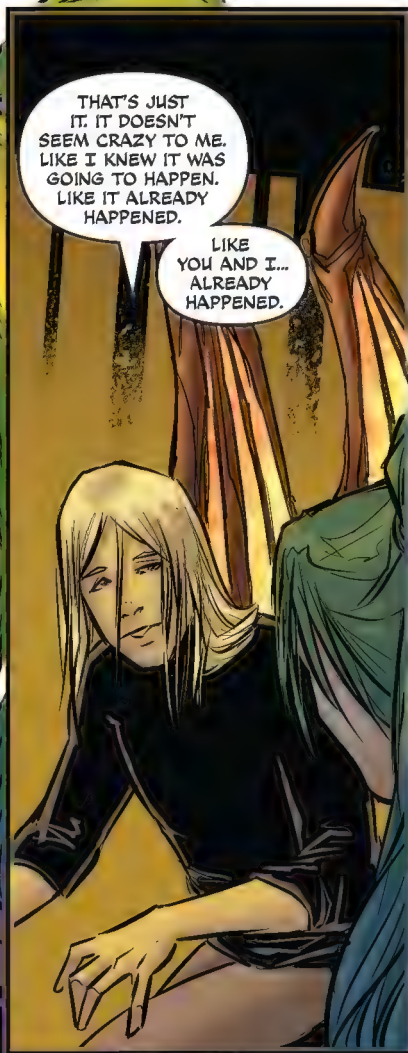


IT'S ME.
IT'S YOU.

IT'S ALL
OF THIS.



THIS WORLD
HAS BEEN
CHANGING.
LOTS OF CRAZY
THINGS HAPPENING.
NO WONDER
YOU FEEL A
LITTLE OFF.



THAT'S JUST
IT. IT DOESN'T
SEEM CRAZY TO ME.
LIKE I KNEW IT WAS
GOING TO HAPPEN.
LIKE IT ALREADY
HAPPENED.

LIKE
YOU AND I...
ALREADY
HAPPENED.



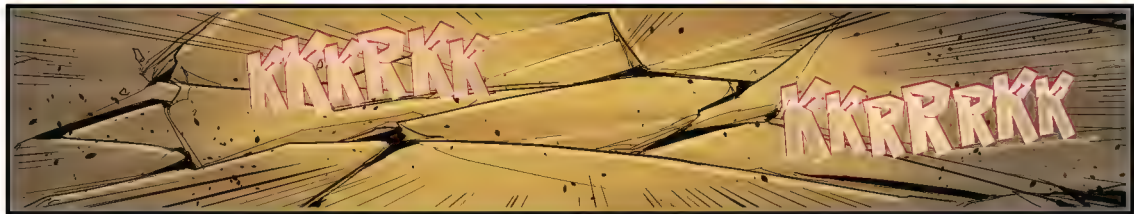
UH, EASY
THERE, MAL. YOU'RE
SOUNDING A LITTLE
PSYCHO NOW.

WAIT.

MAYBE, WE
SHOULD CALL IT
A NIGHT. WE BOTH
HAVE A LOT TO
PROCESS. I KNOW
I DO.



WHAT'S GOING
ON? ANOTHER
EARTHQUAKE? AN
AFTERSHOCK?







LOOK
OUT!



WHOA...

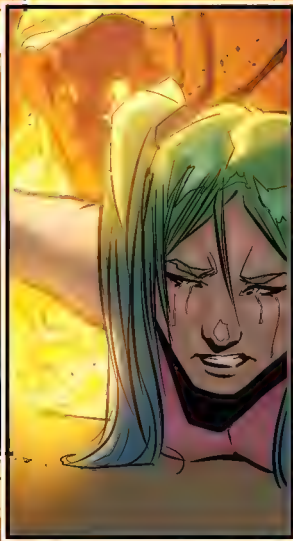
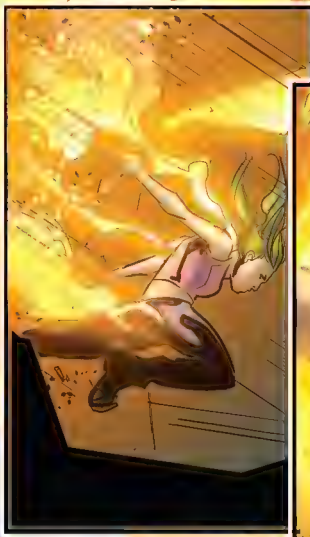
COULDN'T
HAVE SAID
IT BETTER
MYSELF.



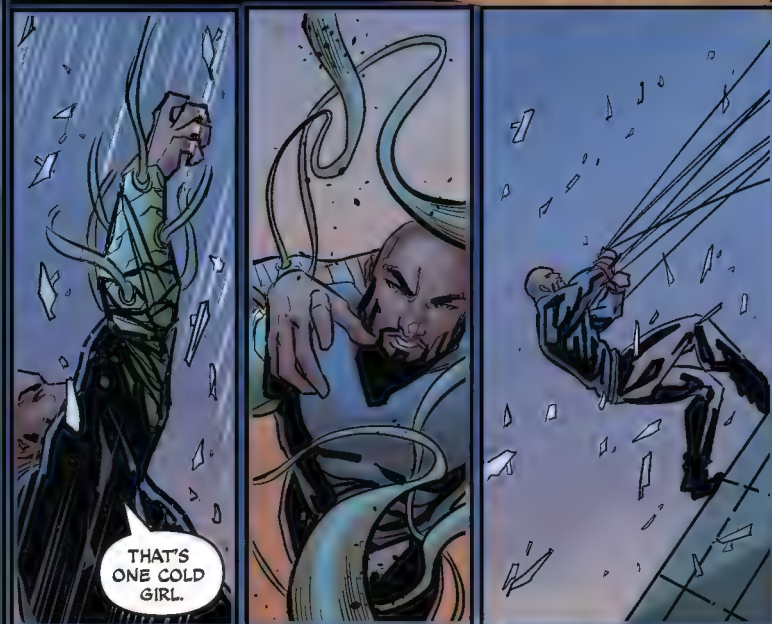
RUN!



NO!!!!







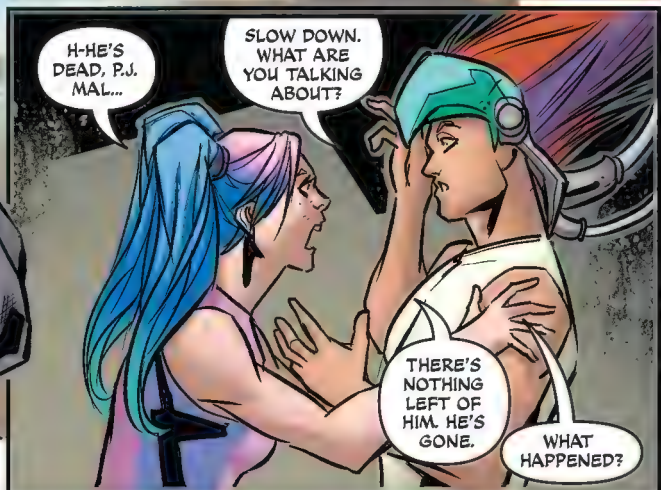


DOWN THE
RIGHT SIDE.
DODGING LEFT.
DODGING
RIGHT.

HE SHOOT.
HE SCORES!



P.J.!



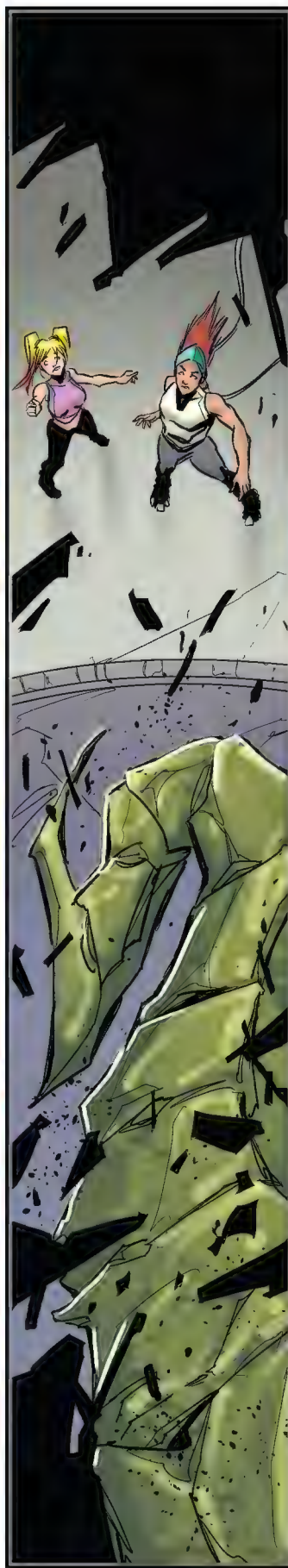
H-HE'S
DEAD, P.J.
MAL...

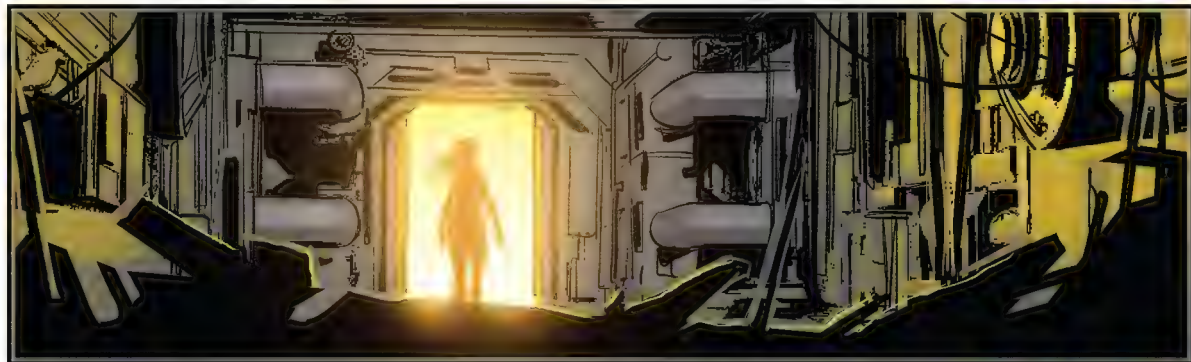
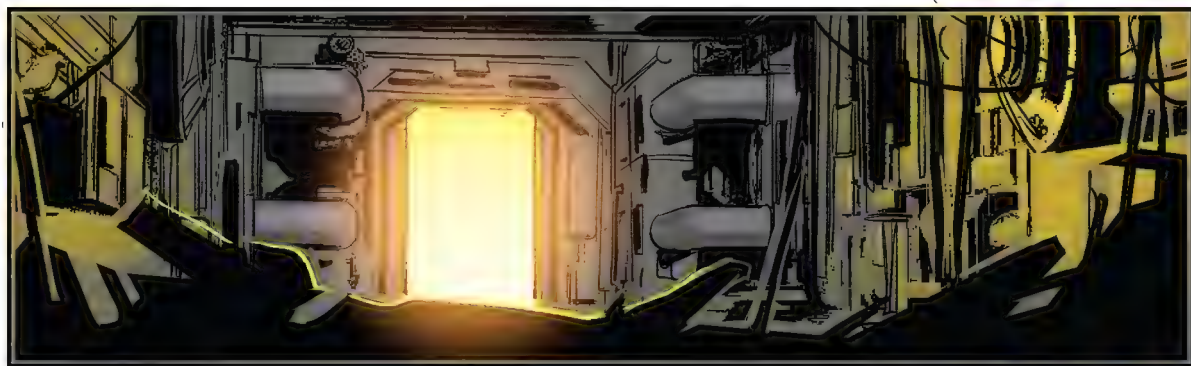
SLOW DOWN.
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

THERE'S
NOTHING
LEFT OF
HIM. HE'S
GONE.

WHAT
HAPPENED?









GAAAH!



EASY,
MALIKAI.

THE FIRE.
IT WAS ALL
AROUND ME.
I WAS DEAD.
I HAD TO
BE DEAD.



YOU'RE
OKAY.

W-WHO
ARE YOU?



DO YOU
REMEMBER WHEN
YOU KNEW THE
ANSWER TO THAT
QUESTION?



CAN YOU
SEE ME IN
ANOTHER TIME?
ANOTHER
PLACE?



I SEE
IT, THOUGH,
OBVIOUSLY
NOT WITH
MY EYES.



YOU HAVE
TO LOOK WITH
YOUR SOUL.



Y-YOUR
NAME
IS...PILI.



WHAT IS
HAPPENING
TO ME?

YOU ARE
DISCOVERING
JUST WHO
AND WHAT
YOU ARE.

I AM
SO CONFUSED.
MY MIND IS SWIRLING
WITH VISIONS. OF MYSELF,
AND YET NOT. PEOPLE I
KNOW. PEOPLE I DON'T.
LIKE THEY ARE. LIKE
THEY AREN'T... I... YOU,
RAINIER, ONYX...



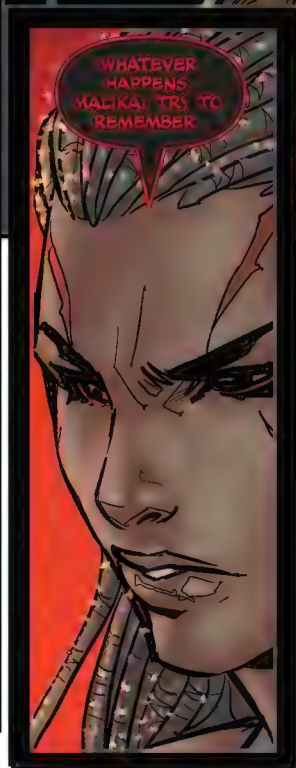
SONIA!

SHE WAS
HERE WHEN
THAT DRAGON
ATTACKED. WHERE
IS SHE? DO
YOU KNOW?

I HAVE
TO FIND
HER.

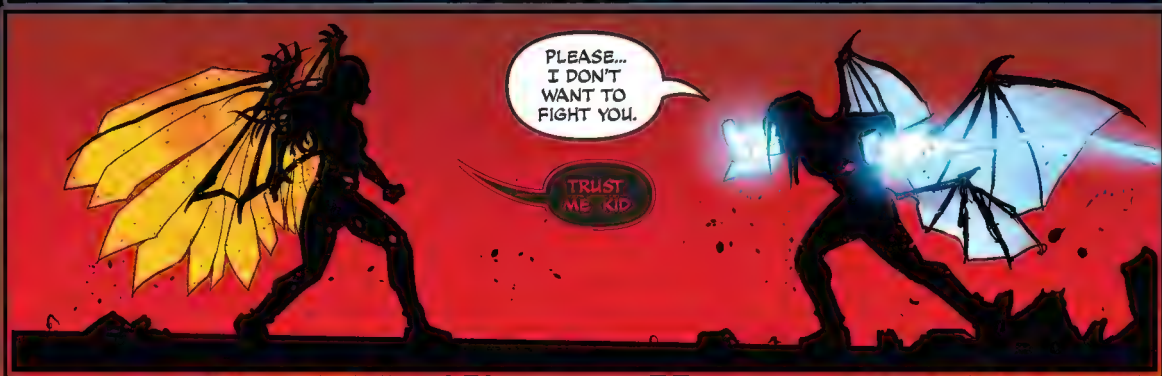
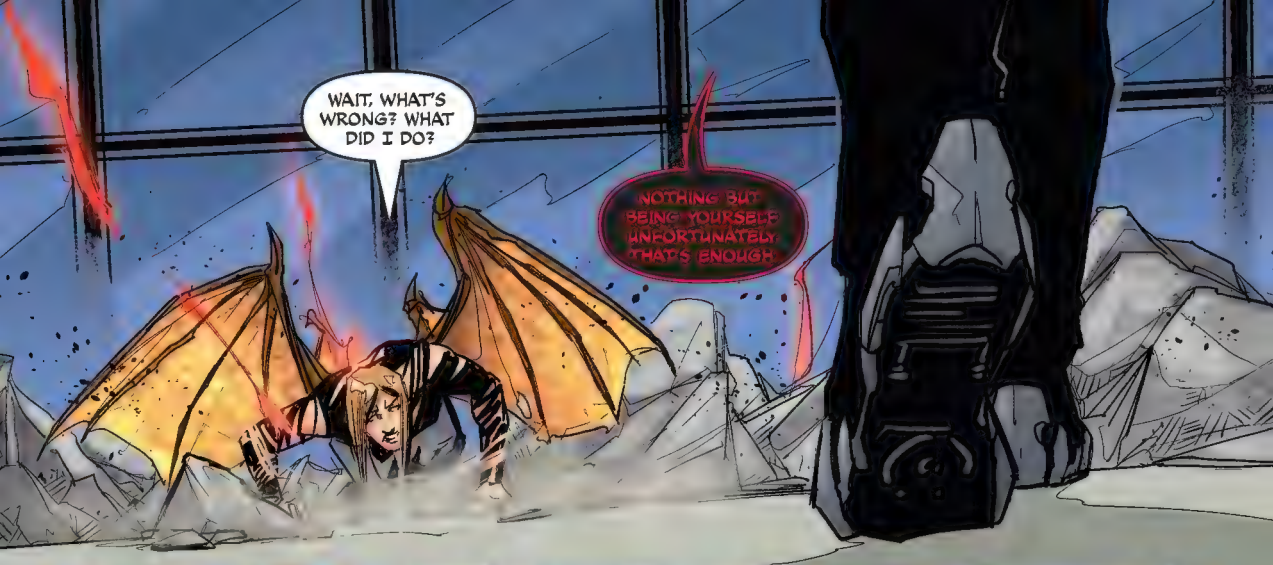


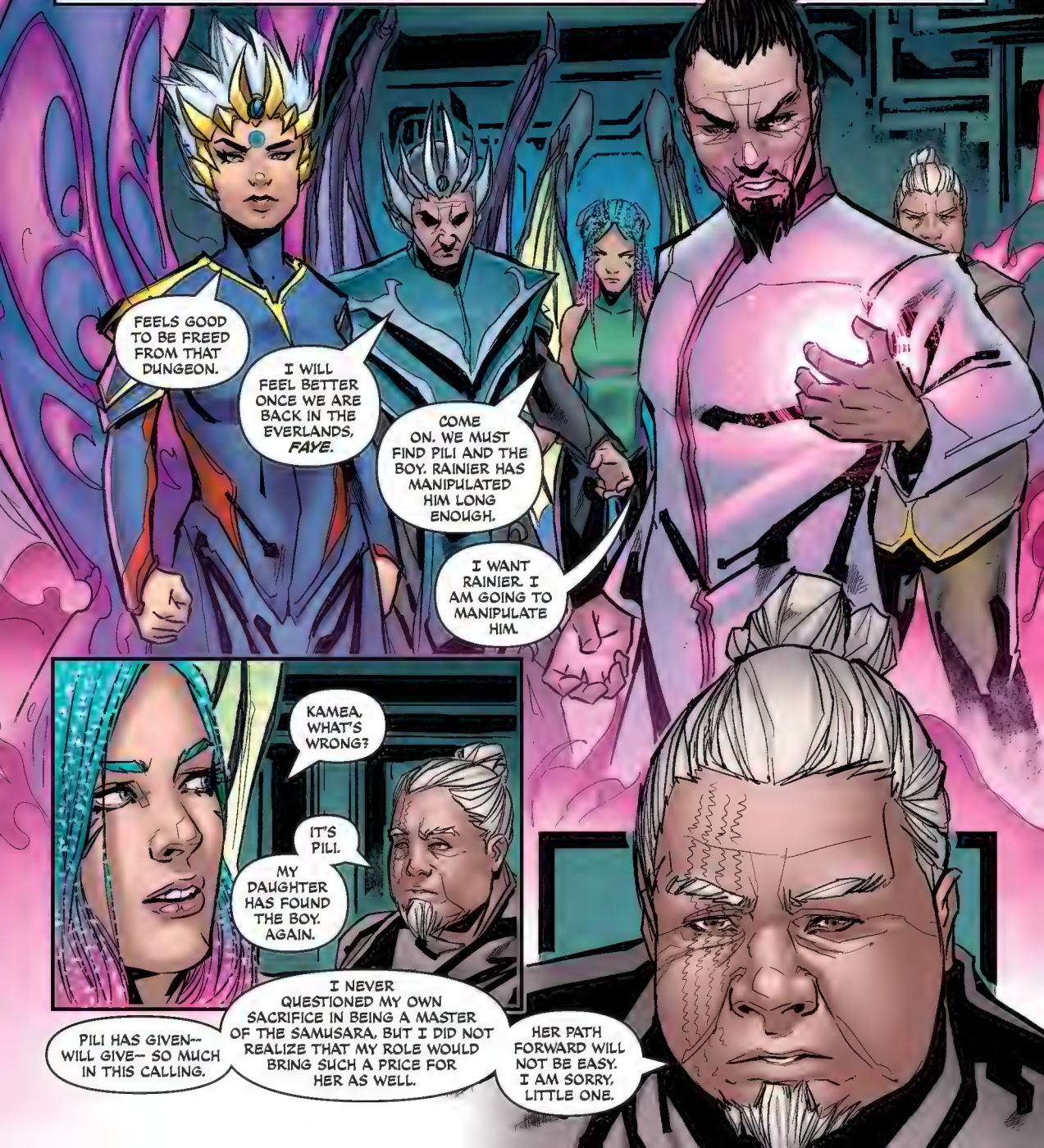
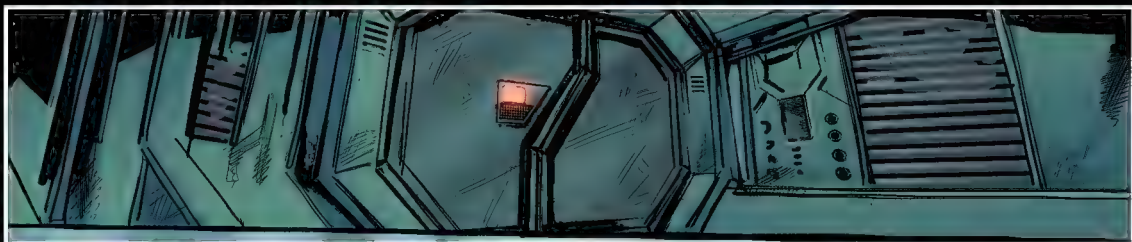
MALIKAI!
WAIT!





IT'S
NOTHING
PERSONAL!





FEELS GOOD
TO BE FREED
FROM THAT
DUNGEON.

I WILL
FEEL BETTER
ONCE WE ARE
BACK IN THE
EVERLANDS,
FAYE.

COME
ON. WE MUST
FIND PILI AND THE
BOY. RAINIER HAS
MANIPULATED
HIM LONG
ENOUGH.

I WANT
RAINIER. I
AM GOING TO
MANIPULATE
HIM.

KAMEA,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

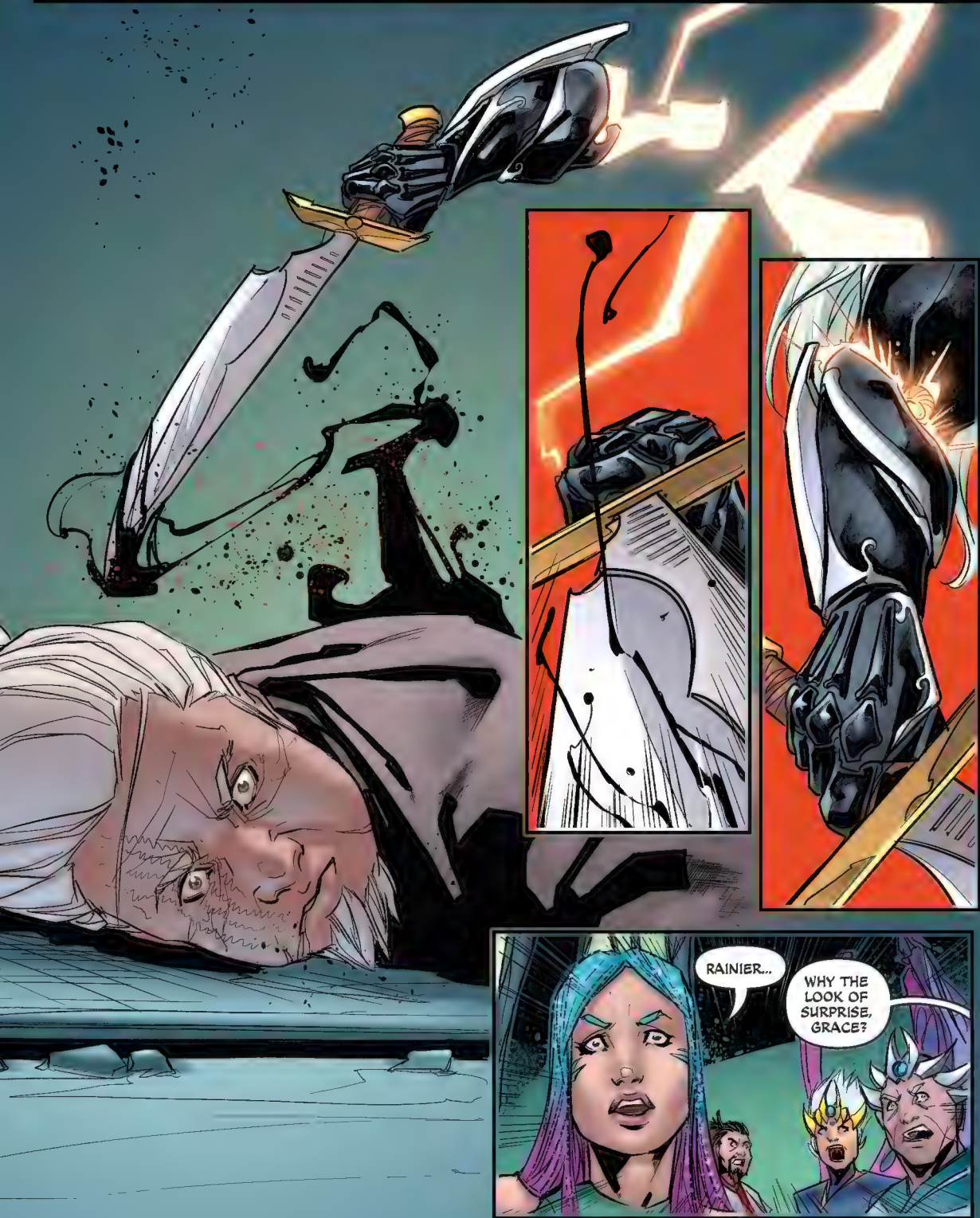
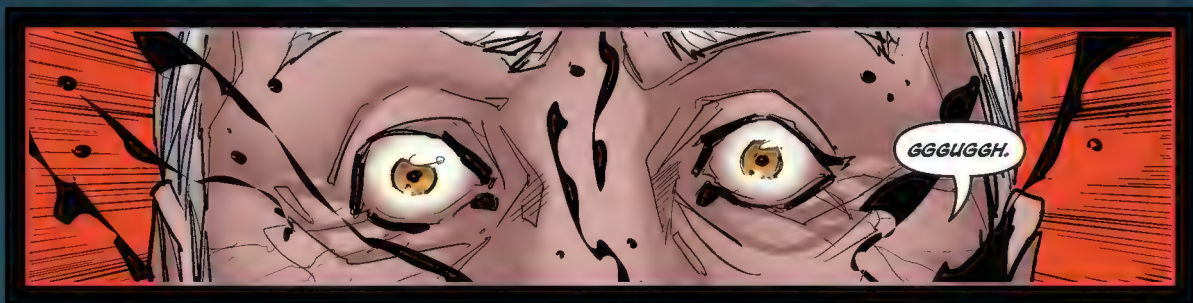
IT'S
PILI.

MY
DAUGHTER
HAS FOUND
THE BOY.
AGAIN.

PILI HAS GIVEN--
WILL GIVE-- SO MUCH
IN THIS CALLING.

I NEVER
QUESTIONED MY OWN
SACRIFICE IN BEING A MASTER
OF THE SAMUSARA, BUT I DID NOT
REALIZE THAT MY ROLE WOULD
BRING SUCH A PRICE FOR
HER AS WELL.

HER PATH
FORWARD WILL
NOT BE EASY.
I AM SORRY,
LITTLE ONE.





DID
YOU THINK
THERE WOULD
BE ANY OTHER
WAY FOR THIS
TO END?

The scene is set in a futuristic, metallic environment. In the foreground, a large, imposing figure with long white hair and a goatee stands. He wears a highly detailed, dark, metallic suit with glowing orange eyes and a long, flowing purple cape. He holds a large, curved blade in his right hand. In the background, two winged figures with large, yellow, flame-like wings are visible. One figure is standing and holding a red laser beam, while the other is kneeling. The overall tone is dramatic and intense.

 **TO BE
CONTINUED**



J. T. KRUL | GIUSEPPE

AS HARTMAN | ZEN

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

#6

OF 8
COVER A



CAFARU
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Vol. 6

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ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

#6

OF 8
COVER B



Malikai's invitation to Sonia, PJ and Benoist to Rainier Tower quickly devolved, as the sudden arrival of wings on Malikai's form—as well as a raging dragon hellbent on destroying everything in its path—turned the party into a disaster. However, Malikai quickly learned that the true danger came from Onyx, as the deadly warrior set her sights on eliminating him due to his newly-discovered abilities. Yet, deeper inside the tower, the true Masters of the magical world experienced an even greater shock, as their visionary leader, Kamea, was brutally slain in cold blood by the dark lord, Rainier...

ASPEN COMICS PRESENTS:

All New Soulfire

PART 6 of 8

J.T. Krul
writer

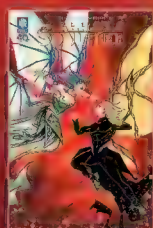
Giuseppe Cafaro
pencils & inks

Wes Hartman
colors

Zen
letters

Vince Hernandez, Gabe Carrasco —editors

Mark Roslan, Peter Steigerwald, Gabe Carrasco —design & production



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MAGIC HAS BEEN A PART
OF THIS WORLD SINCE
THE VERY BEGINNING.

BEFORE SCIENCE, IT WAS
A MEANS TO EXPLAIN
THE UNEXPLAINABLE.



BRING ORDER
OUT OF CHAOS.

OVER THE YEARS, THE WORLD HAS
TRIED TO CONCEAL THE MAGIC.
DRESS IT UP AS SOMETHING ELSE.
DENY IT'S VERY EXISTENCE.



BUT NO MATTER WHAT
STORY THEY TELL THEMSELVES.
NO MATTER WHAT MYTH GETS
TRANSFORMED INTO FACT.

IN THE MOMENT,
ALL IS LAID BARE.



IN THE MOMENT, THE TRUTH IS UNAVOIDABLE.



WHAT IS THAT THING?!

IT LOOKS LIKE... IT'S...

GOOD GOD!



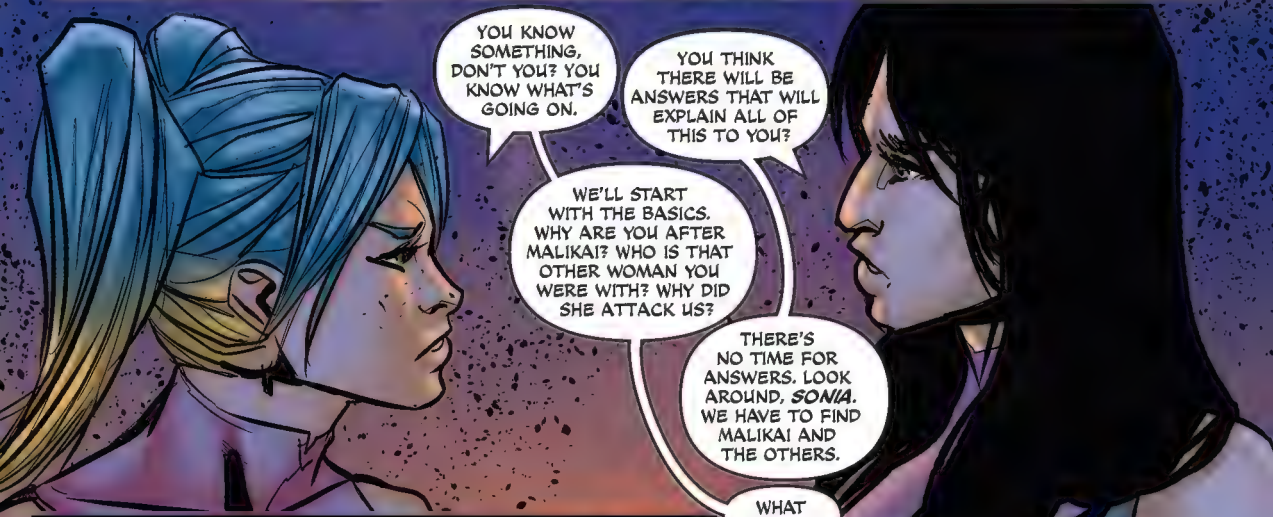


HEY!
YOU!



YOU'RE
THAT GIRL FROM
THE CLUB THE
OTHER NIGHT.

YEAH, THE
ONE THAT GAVE
US THE TICKETS.
YOU FOLLOWING
ME?



YOU KNOW
SOMETHING,
DON'T YOU? YOU
KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON.

YOU THINK
THERE WILL BE
ANSWERS THAT WILL
EXPLAIN ALL OF
THIS TO YOU?

WE'LL START
WITH THE BASICS.
WHY ARE YOU AFTER
MALIKAI? WHO IS THAT
OTHER WOMAN YOU
WERE WITH? WHY DID
SHE ATTACK US?

THERE'S
NO TIME FOR
ANSWERS. LOOK
AROUND, SONIA.
WE HAVE TO FIND
MALIKAI AND
THE OTHERS.

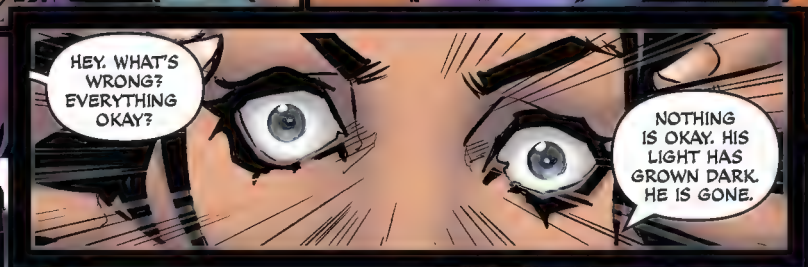
WHAT
OTHERS?



GAAAHH!

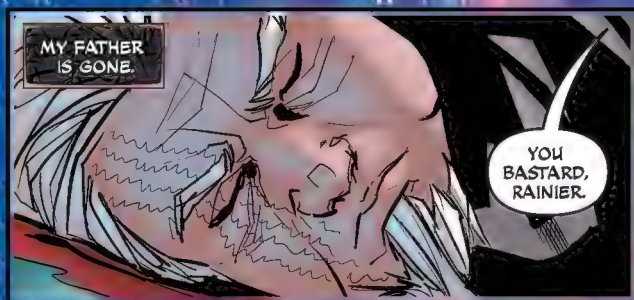
WHAT DID
YOU DO, SONIA?
HIT HER???

I DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING, P.J.!



HEY. WHAT'S
WRONG?
EVERYTHING
OKAY?

NOTHING
IS OKAY. HIS
LIGHT HAS
GROWN DARK.
HE IS GONE.



YOU
BASTARD,
RAINIER.

GIVEN HIS TASTE
FOR THE CLAIRVOYANT,
KAMEA SEEMED AWFULLY
SURPRISED. I WOULDN'T
HAVE EXPECTED THAT.
WOULD YOU?

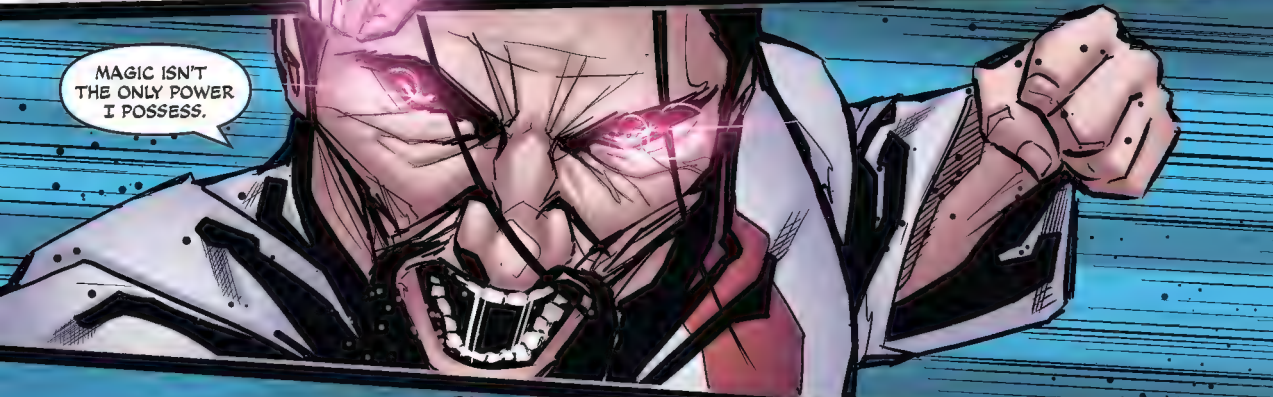


YOU WILL
NOT MOCK
HIS DEATH!



REN, PLEASE.
SUCH A FUTILE
ATTEMPT.

TELL ME--
WHERE DO YOU
THINK ALL THE
POWER I SIPHONED
FROM YOU HAS
GONE? TO THE
BOY? HARDLY.



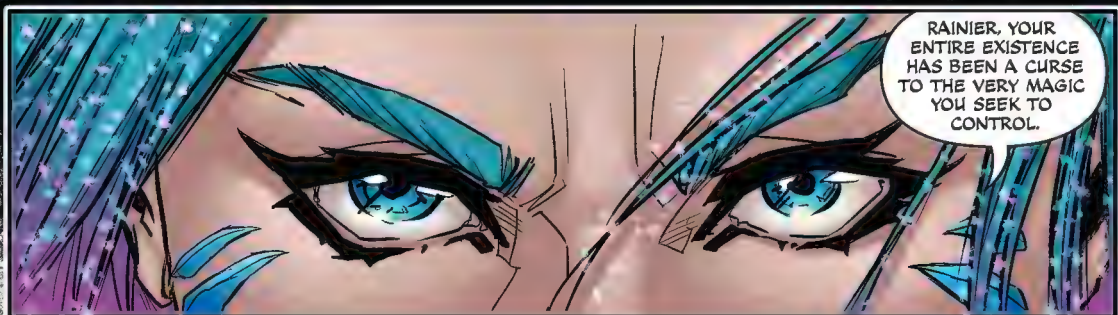
MAGIC ISN'T
THE ONLY POWER
I POSSESS.



WHITTSSSSH!



WE
NEITHER



RAINIER, YOUR
ENTIRE EXISTENCE
HAS BEEN A CURSE
TO THE VERY MAGIC
YOU SEEK TO
CONTROL.

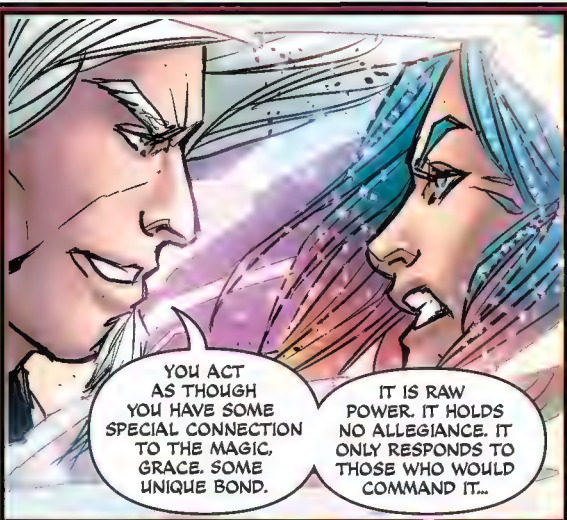


I WON'T LET YOU POISON IT ANYMORE. I WON'T LET YOU CORRUPT THE SAMUSARA.



FAYE, I'LL DEAL WITH ONYX. SAVE THE BOY.

WE SHALL SAVE HIM TOGETHER.

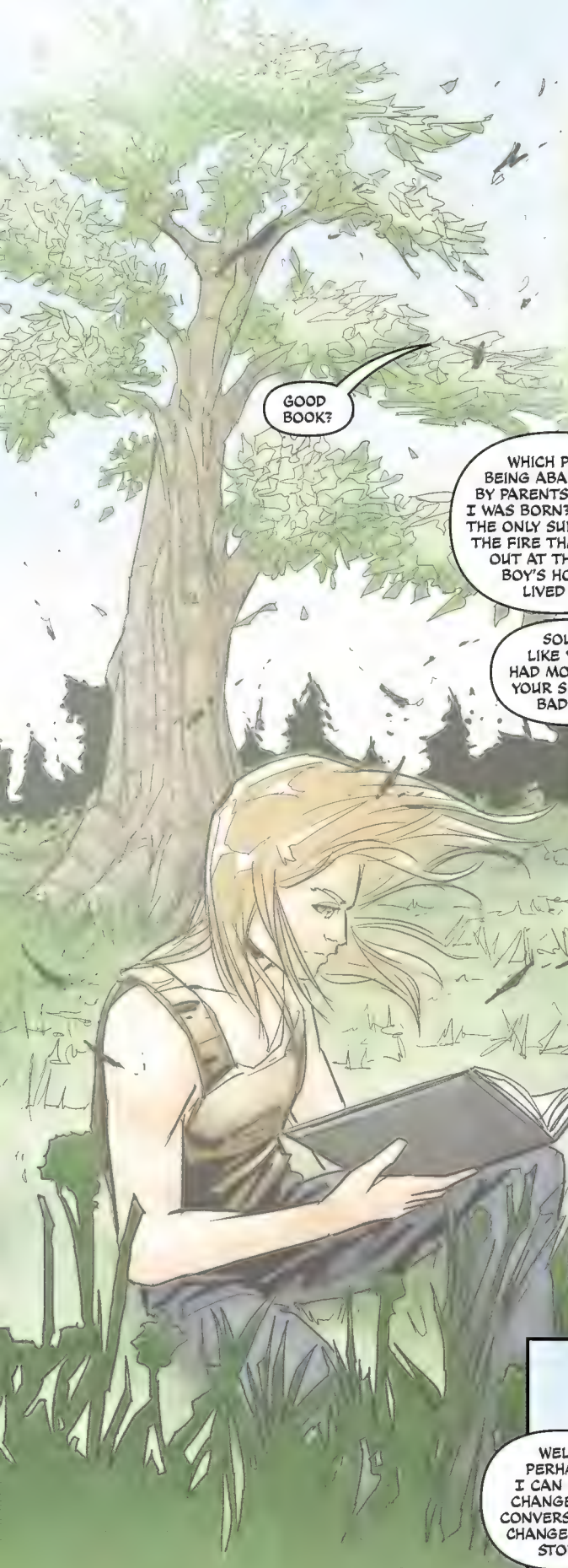


YOU ACT AS THOUGH YOU HAVE SOME SPECIAL CONNECTION TO THE MAGIC, GRACE. SOME UNIQUE BOND.

IT IS RAW POWER. IT HOLDS NO ALLEGIANCE. IT ONLY RESPONDS TO THOSE WHO WOULD COMMAND IT...



...THOSE WITH THE WILL.



GOOD
BOOK?

IT'S
OKAY.

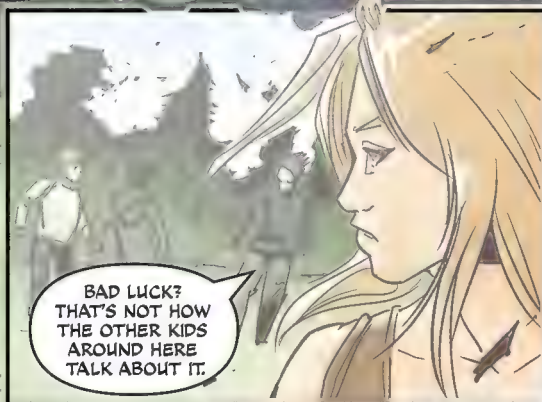
YOUR
NAME IS MALIKAI,
YES?

YEAH.
WHO ARE
YOU?

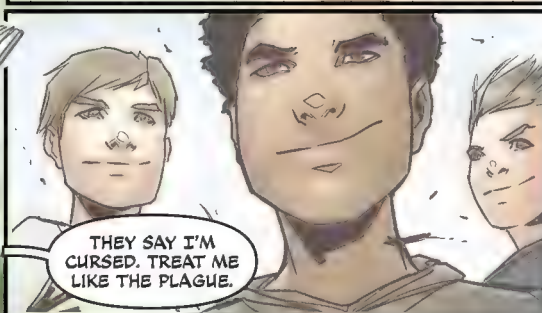
WHICH PART?
BEING ABANDONED
BY PARENTS THE DAY
I WAS BORN? OR BEING
THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF
THE FIRE THAT BROKE
OUT AT THE LAST
BOY'S HOME I
LIVED AT?

MY NAME
IS RAINIER.
I'VE HEARD THAT
YOU'VE BEEN
THROUGH QUITE
AN ORDEAL.

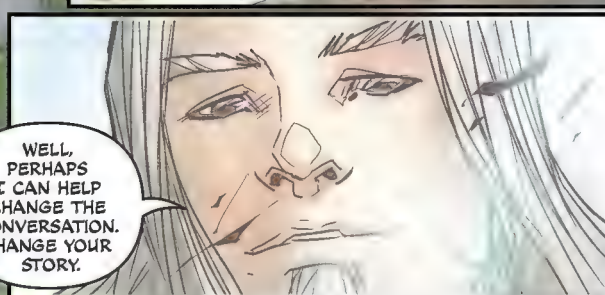
SOUNDS
LIKE YOU'VE
HAD MORE THAN
YOUR SHARE OF
BAD LUCK.



BAD LUCK?
THAT'S NOT HOW
THE OTHER KIDS
AROUND HERE
TALK ABOUT IT.



THEY SAY I'M
CURSED. TREAT ME
LIKE THE PLAGUE.



WELL,
PERHAPS
I CAN HELP
CHANGE THE
CONVERSATION.
CHANGE YOUR
STORY.

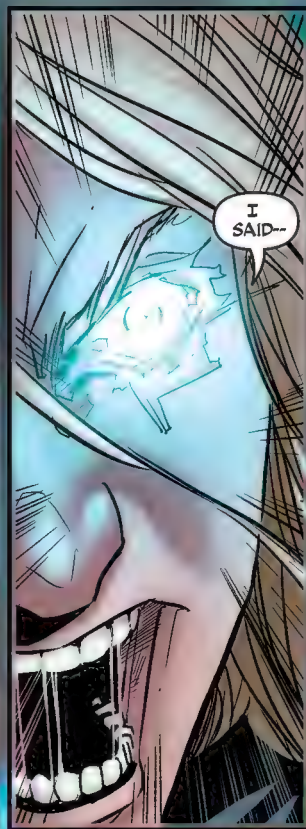


R-RAINIER...

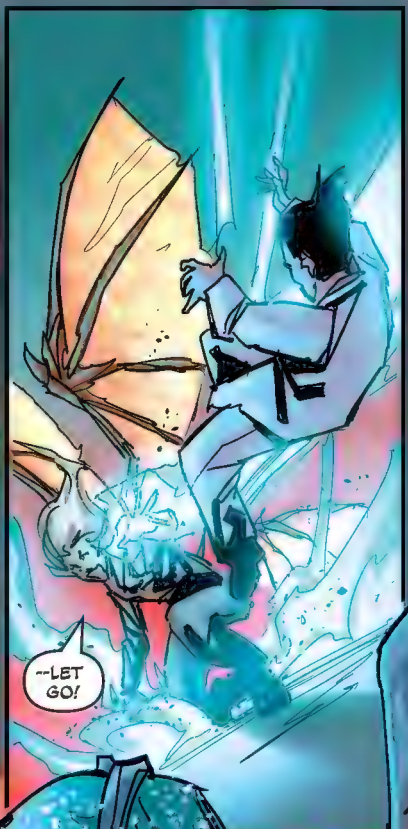


COME ON, KID. MOVE!

LET GO.



I SAID--



--LET GO!



MALIKAI, NO! WE'RE TRYING TO HELP!

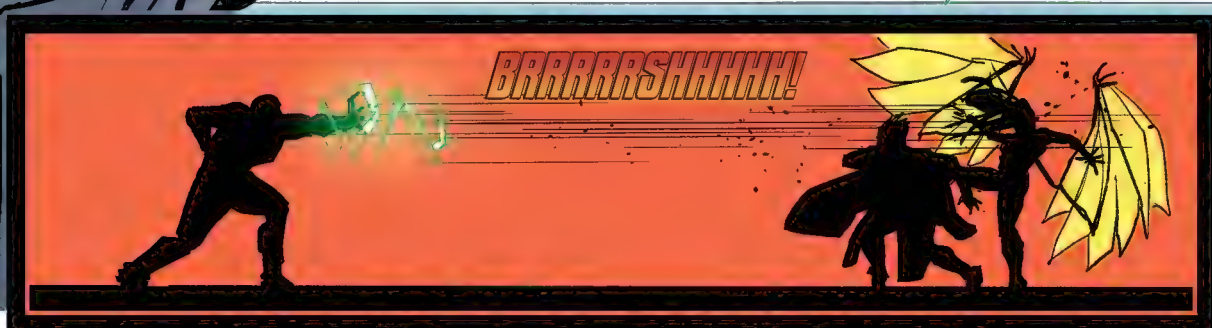
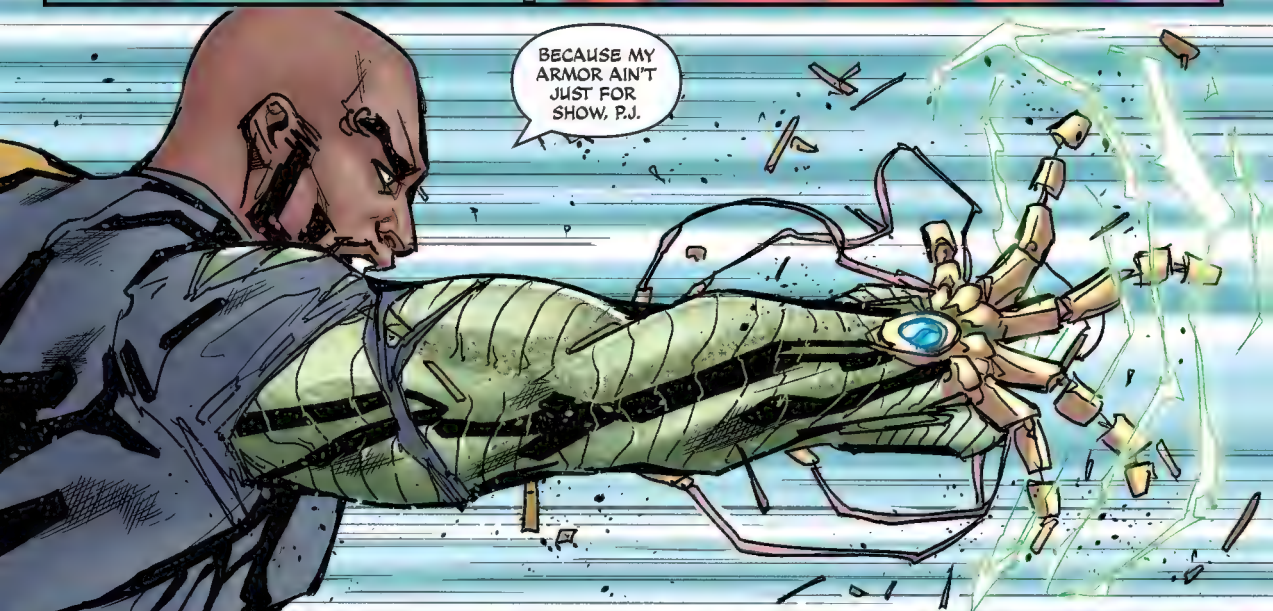
SHE'S LYING. SHE'S THE SAME ONE WHO ATTACKED YOU THE OTHER NIGHT. BACK TO FINISH YOU OFF.

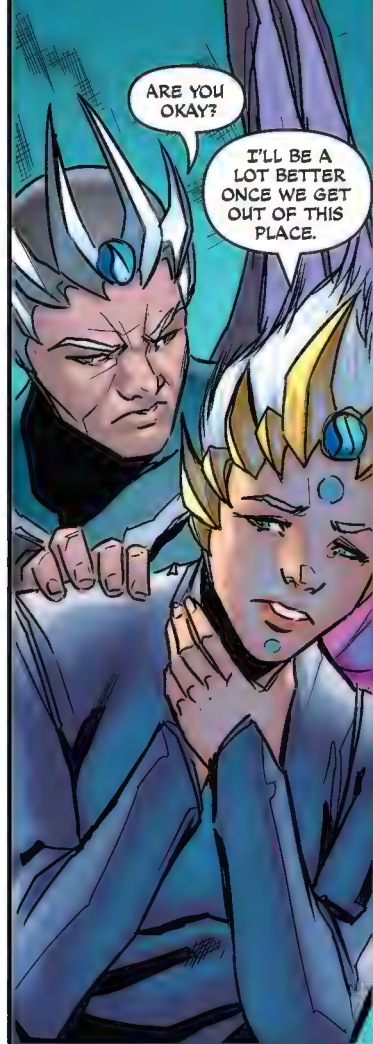
NO. HE'S THE ONE DECEIVING YOU.

YOU THINK I'M STUPID?!



I KNOW
AN ENEMY
WHEN I
SEE ONE.





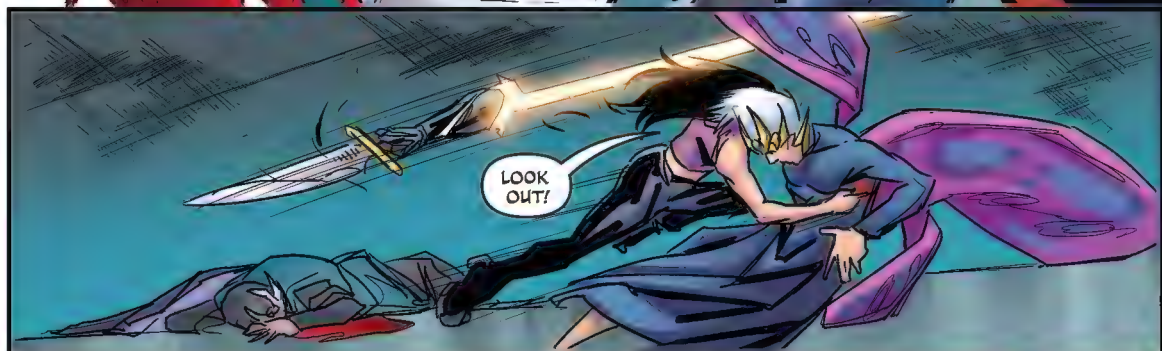
ARE YOU
OKAY?

I'LL BE A
LOT BETTER
ONCE WE GET
OUT OF THIS
PLACE.

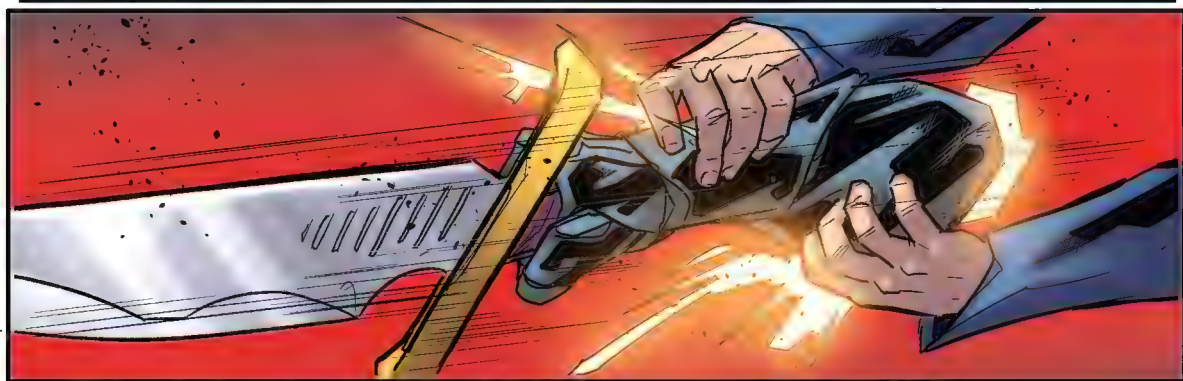


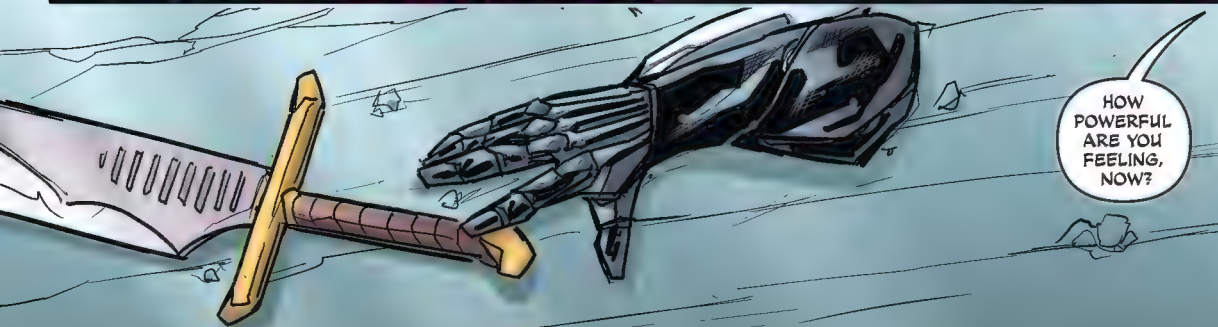
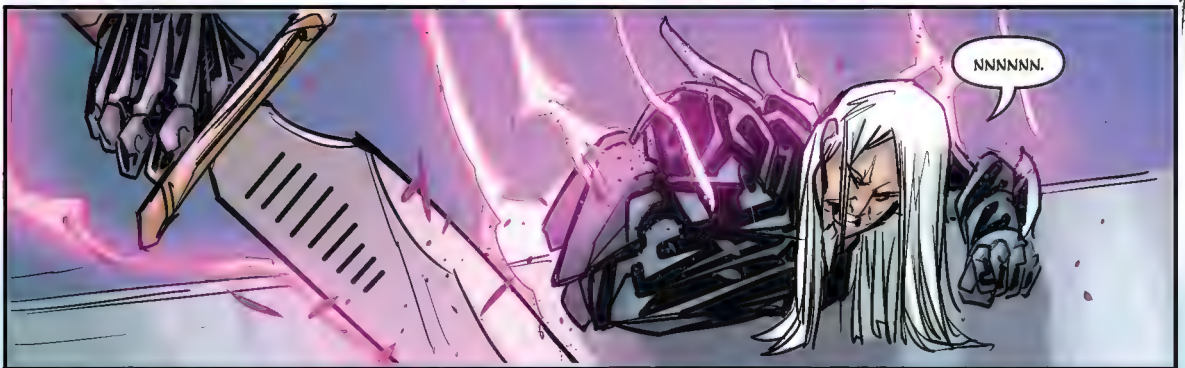
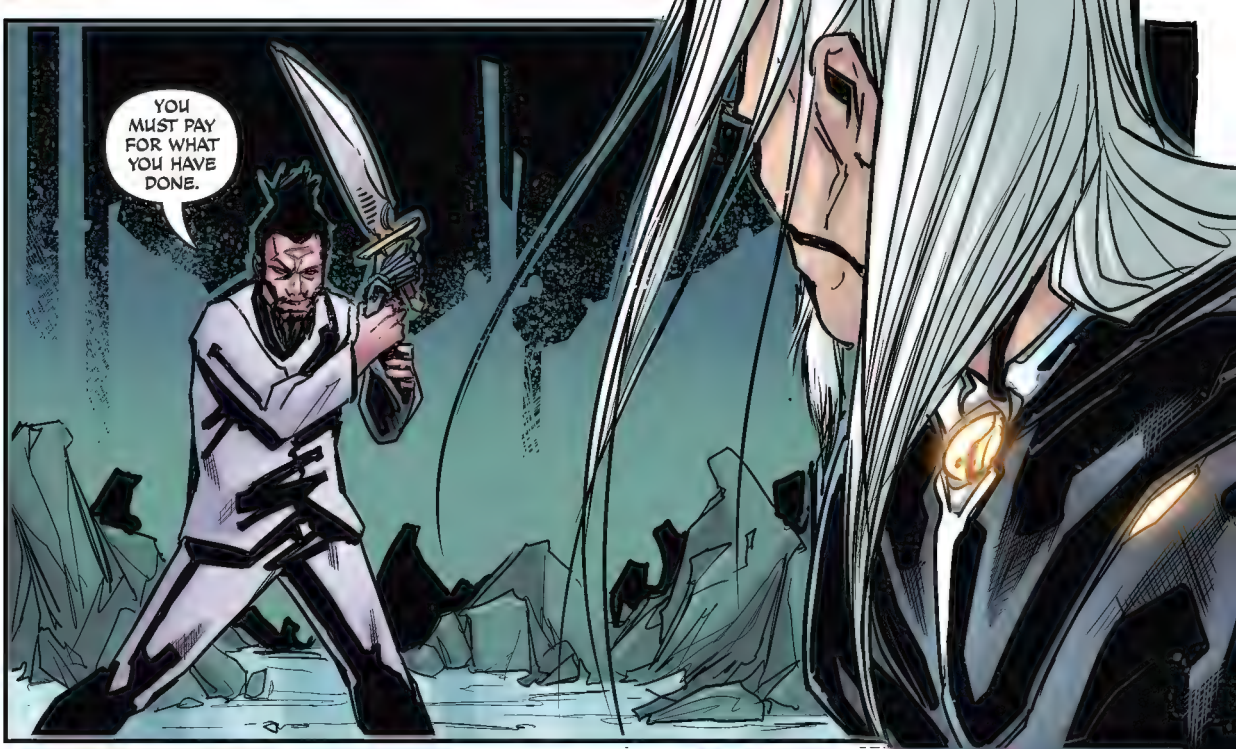
I AM
AFRAID
THAT ISN'T
POSSIBLE.

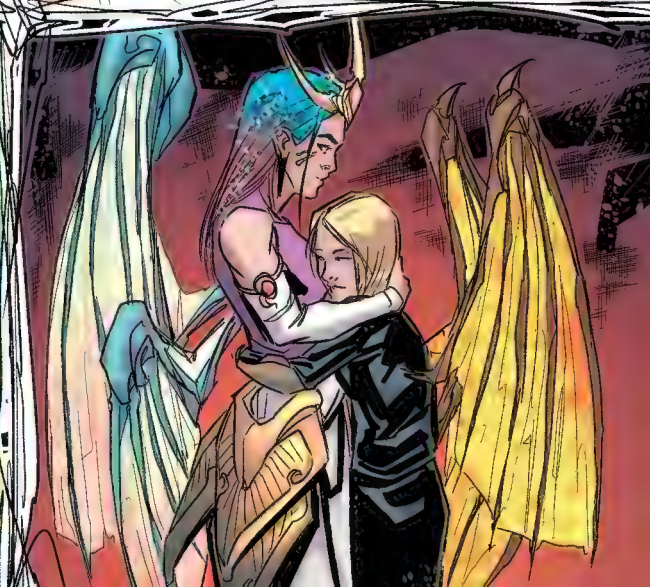
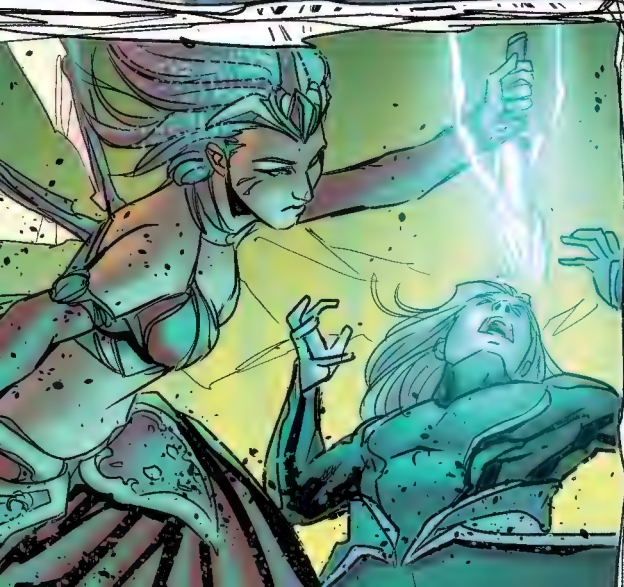
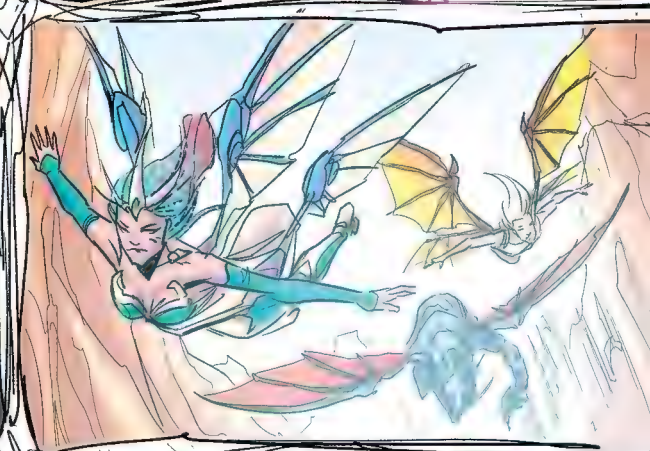
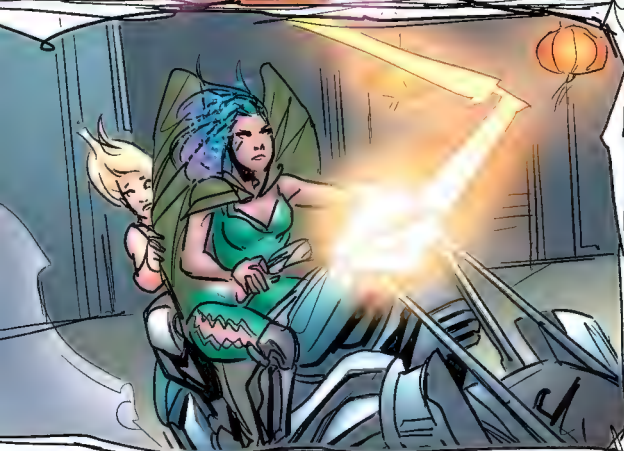
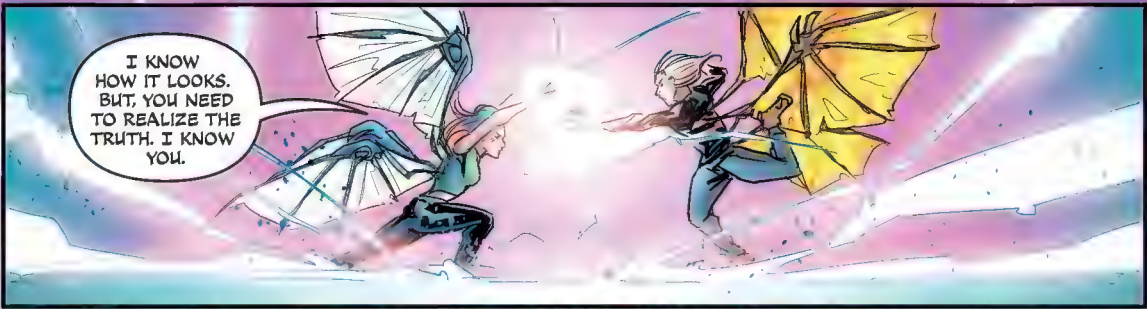
ARLIN!

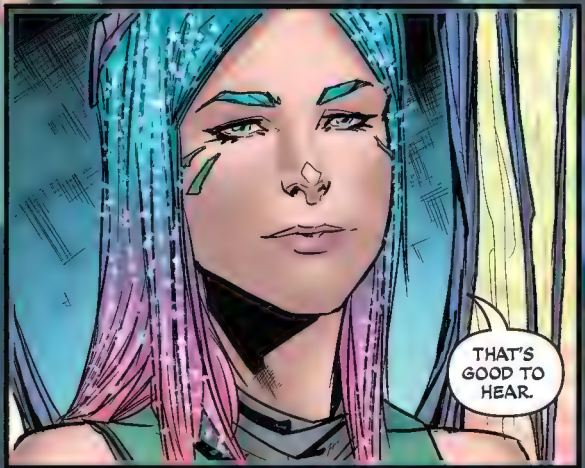
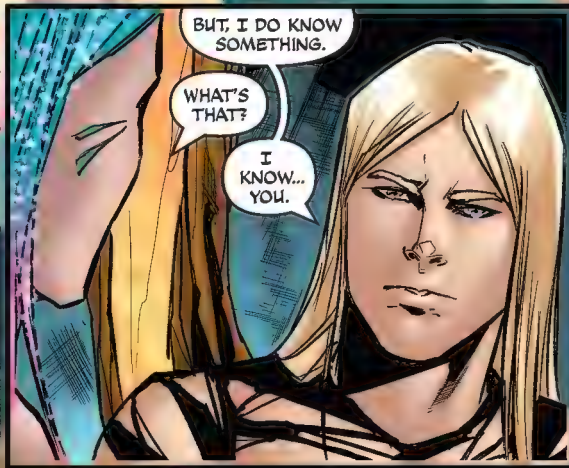


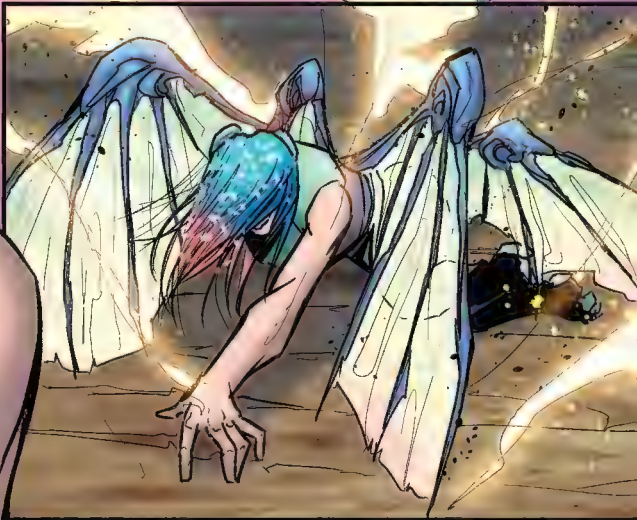
LOOK
OUT!





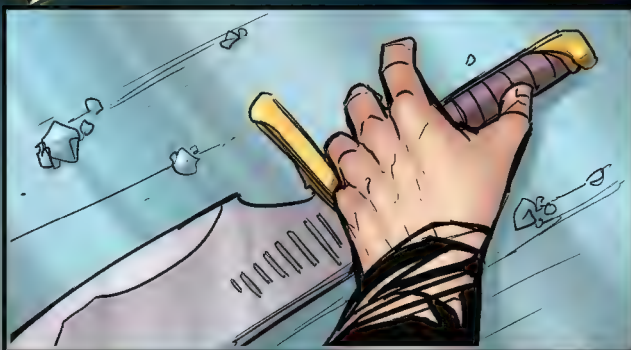






IT'S OVER,
GRACE.

ALL THOSE
YEARS WE STOOD
AT ODDS. EACH TIME
YOU HAD A CHOICE. TO
CHANGE YOUR FATE.
AND EACH TIME, YOU
CHOSE POORLY. RIGHT
UP UNTIL THE END.



IT'S NOT ALWAYS
EASY TO TELL
GOOD FROM BAD.



MALIKAL CAREFUL.
THAT WEAPON IS
VERY DANGEROUS.

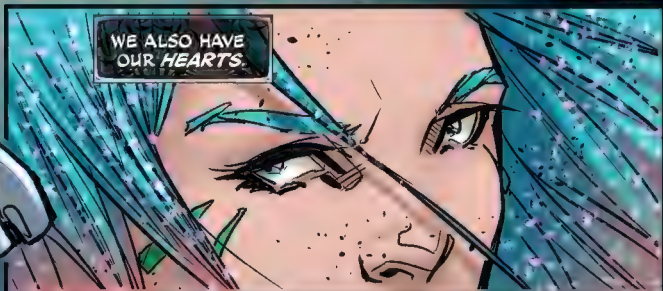
BRING
IT TO ME.
NOW.



THE UNIVERSE
IS MYSTERIOUS
LIKE THAT.

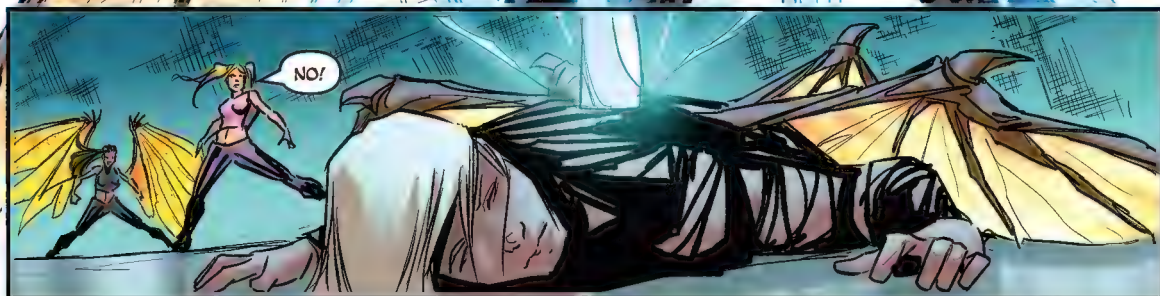


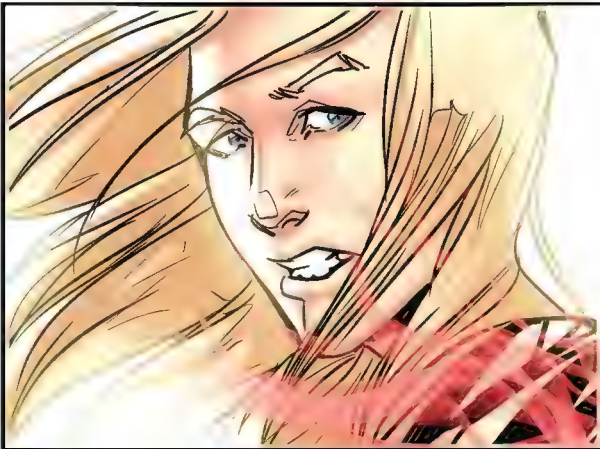
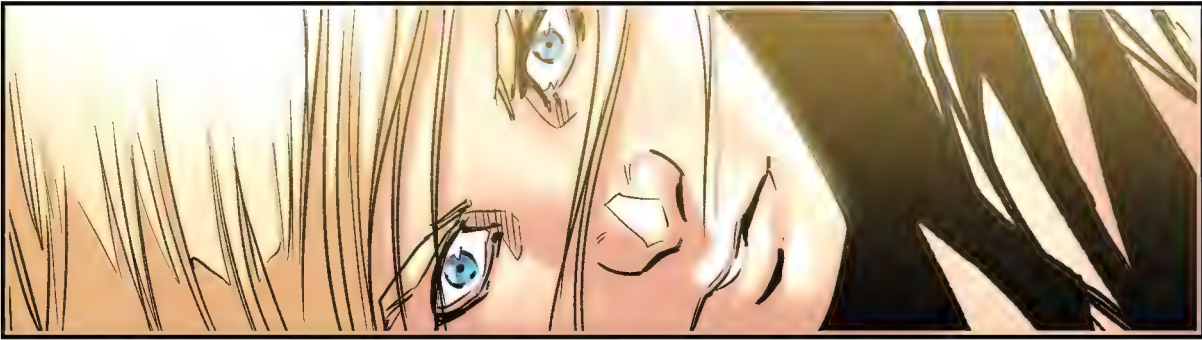
PERHAPS, THAT'S WHY
WE DON'T MERELY THINK
WITH OUR HEADS.



WE ALSO HAVE
OUR *HEARTS*.

THAT WAY— GOOD OR
BAD— WE'LL KNOW
WHAT IS RIGHT.









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Vol. 6

J.T. KRUL | GIUSEPPE CAFARO | WES HARTMAN | ZEN

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

#7

OF 8
COVER A



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ALL NEW
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

#7

OF 8
COVER B



All hell broke loose following Rainier's merciless slaying of Kamea, as his ally and fellow Master Ren attempted to take revenge on the Dark Lord in combat. Meanwhile, Grace used her magical powers to shake Malikai's mind free and unleash a flood of his memories. However, the result brought about unintended results—as the Samusara decided upon the unthinkable by ending his own life...

ASPEN COMICS PRESENTS:

All New Soulfire

PART 7 of 8

J.T. Krul
writer

Giuseppe Cafaro
pencils & inks

Wes Hartman
colors

Zen
letters

Vince Hernandez, Gabe Carrasco —editors

Mark Roslan, Peter Staigerwald, Gabe Carrasco —design & production



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by **GIUSEPPE CAFARO**
& **WES HARTMAN**



Direct Edition
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& **JUSTICE**



Reaper Incentive Edition
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SOULFIRE CREATED BY MICHAEL TURNER

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Vice President/Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ Vice President/Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN Editor: GABE CARRASCO
Office Manager: MORGAN MAORIGAN Production Assistant: JUSTICE AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUFF

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DEATH STRIKES IN
DIFFERENT WAYS.



IT CAN STIR
FEELINGS OF
RAGE OR ANGER.



SERVING AS A REMINDER
FOR JUST HOW UNFAIR
THE WORLD CAN BE.



IT CAN DELUGE
ONE WITH A
DEEP SADNESS.



...OR A SENSE OF
REGRET AND LOSS.



SOME GO NUMB, UNABLE
TO PROCESS THE REALITY
IN FRONT OF THEM.

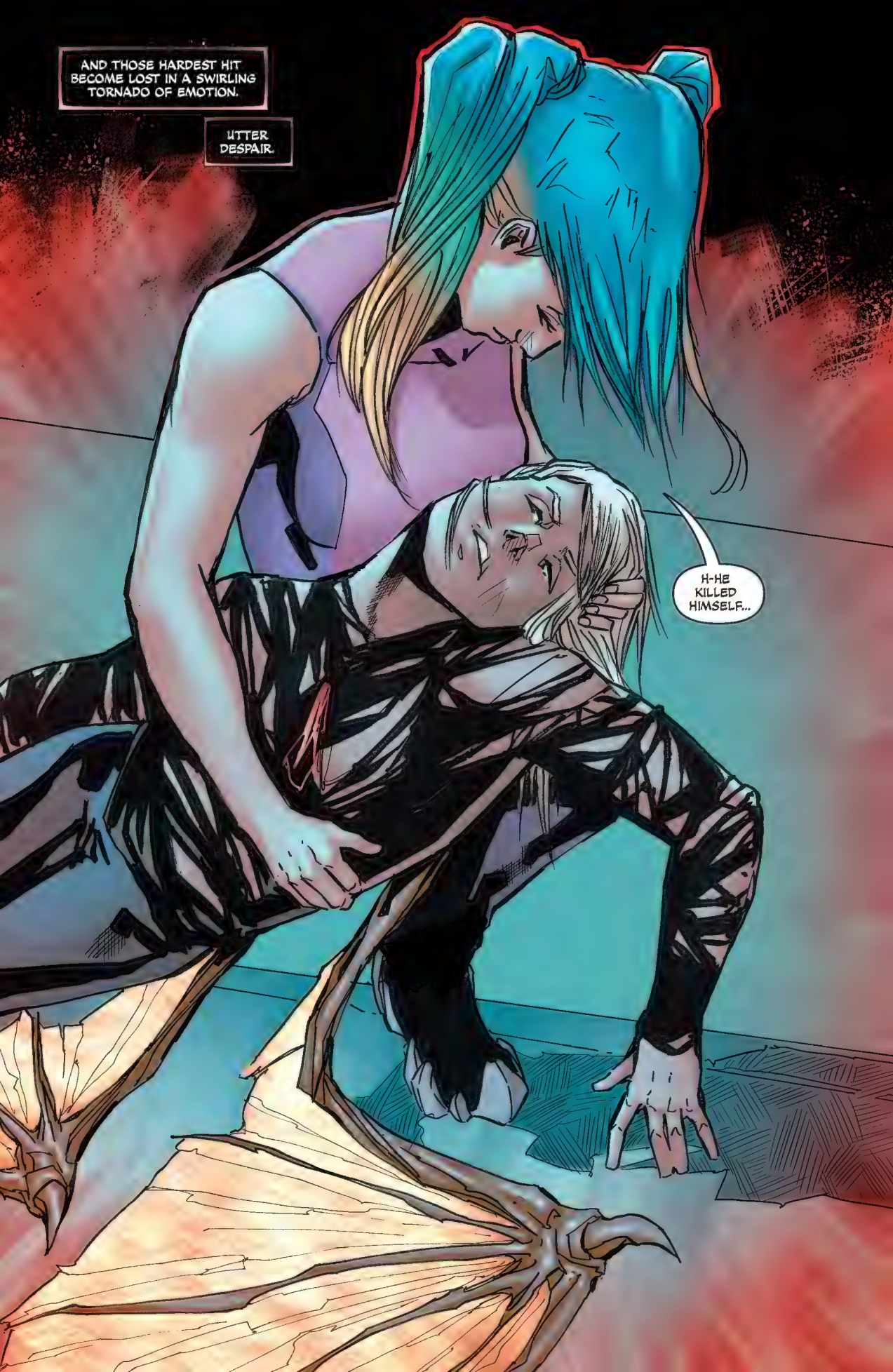
AND EVEN IF THE FATE
IS KNOWN, THE SHOCK
CAN STILL BE INTENSE.



AND THOSE HARDEST HIT
BECOME LOST IN A SWIRLING
TORNADO OF EMOTION.

UTTER
DESPAIR.

H-HE
KILLED
HIMSELF...





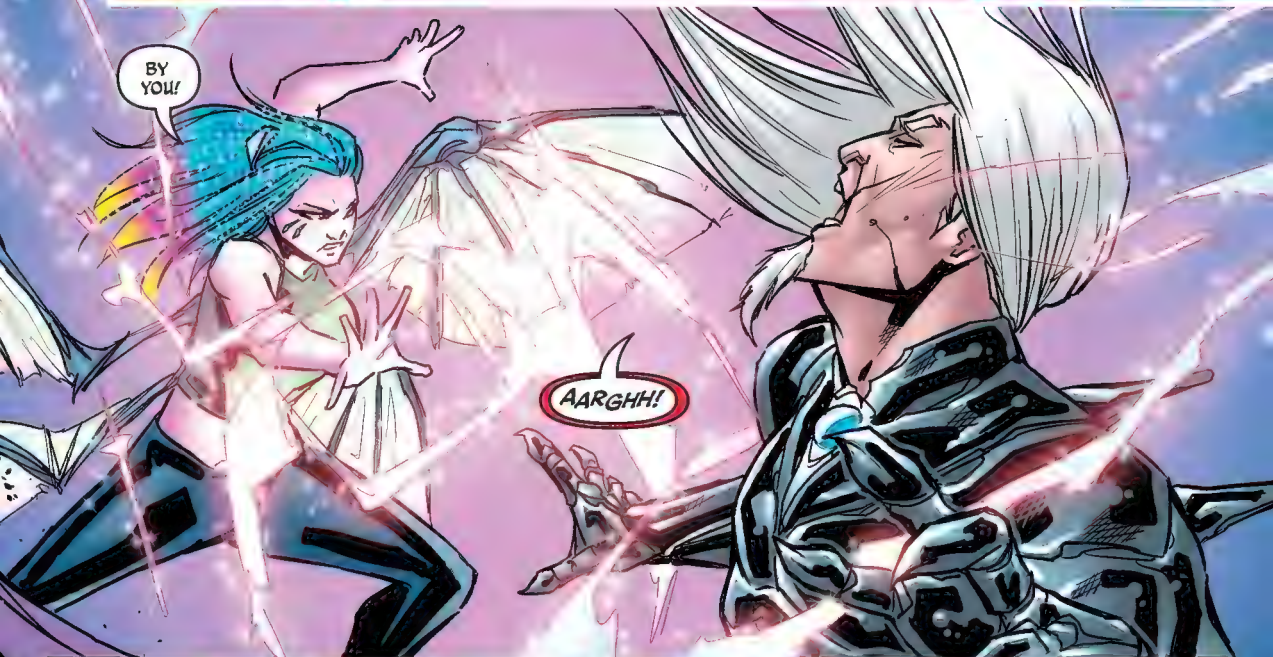
WHY WOULD HE DO THAT? WHY WOULD THE KID TAKE HIS OWN LIFE?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT EITHER.



BECAUSE HE SPENT HIS ENTIRE LIFE.

BEING MANIPULATED AND CONTROLLED.



BY YOU!

AARGHH!



YOU BLAME ME?!



I WAS
THERE FOR HIM
WHEN HE HAD
NOBODY. WHEN
HE WAS LOST
AND ALONE.



I PROTECTED
HIM. GAVE HIM
EVERYTHING.

I SAVED
HIM, GRACE.



YOU SPEAK
AS IF MALIKAI
WAS A SON TO
YOU. AS IF YOU
ACTUALLY CARED
FOR THE BOY.

HE WAS
YOUR SLAVE,
NOTHING
MORE. YOUR
BATTERY.



HIS
BLOOD IS
ON YOUR
HANDS.

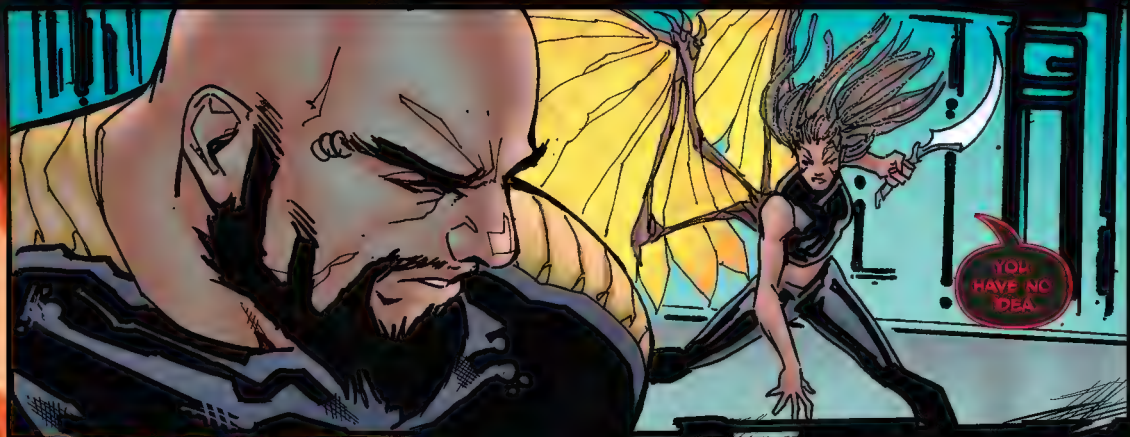


RAINIER
HAS MANY
CRIMES TO
PAY FOR.
GRACE.

HE DOES
NOT ANSWER
TO YOU, REN.

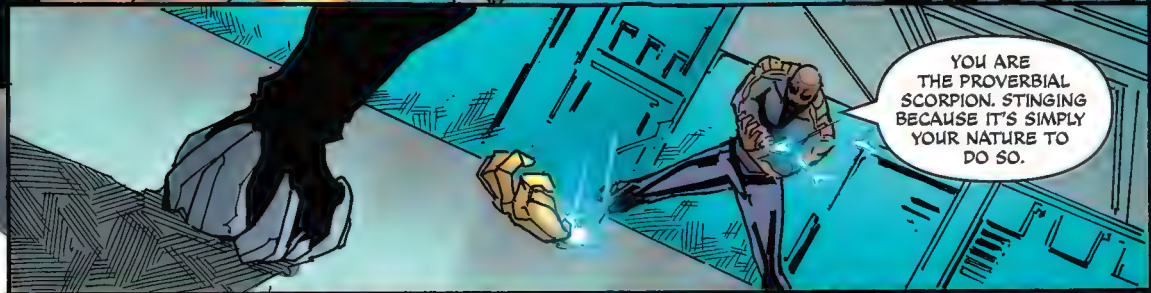
BUT, YOU
ANSWER
TO HIM?

I USED
TO THINK
YOU WERE JUST
OVERZEALOUS.
NOW, I THINK
YOU'RE JUST
MEAN.



YOU
HAVE NO
IDEA.

ACTUALLY,
I'M BEGINNING TO
UNDERSTAND.



YOU ARE
THE PROVERBIAL
SCORPION. STINGING
BECAUSE IT'S SIMPLY
YOUR NATURE TO
DO SO.



I'M NOT
LIKE THAT...



...BUT I
CAN ADAPT IF
NECESSARY.

AGGGGGHHH!

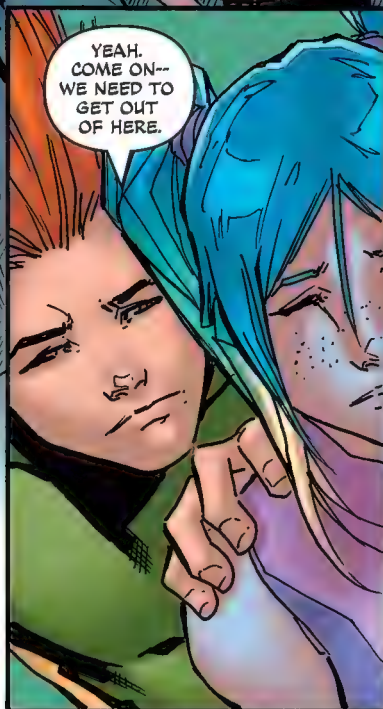


SONIA--
ARE YOU
OKAY?

LOOK
AT HIM,
P.J.

I KNOW.

HE WAS
SO SWEET.
SO KIND.



YEAH.
COME ON--
WE NEED TO
GET OUT
OF HERE.



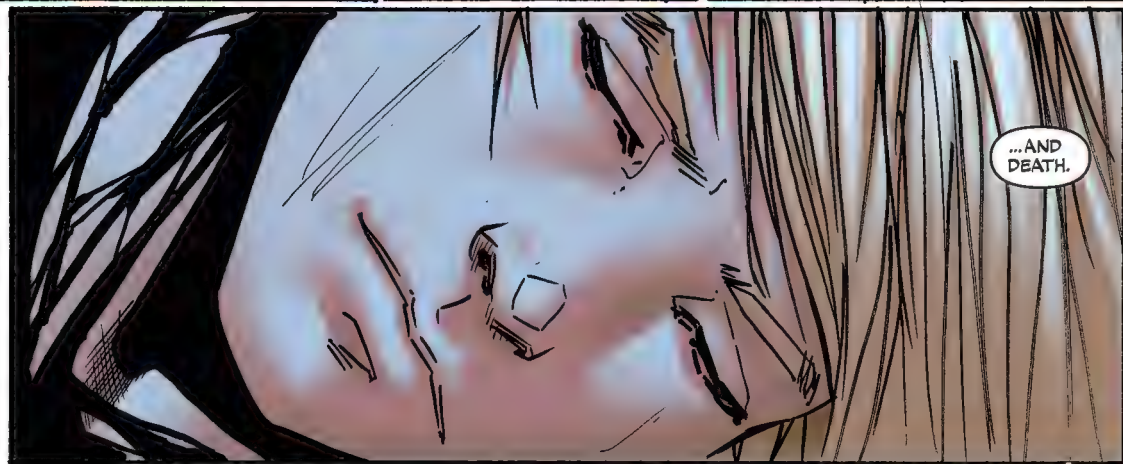
I REALLY
JUST MET HIM.
BUT IT DIDN'T FEEL
THAT WAY. IT WAS LIKE
I HAD KNOWN HIM FOR
YEARS AND THAT
HE HAD KNOWN
ME.

I KNOW HOW
CRAZY THAT
SOUNDS,

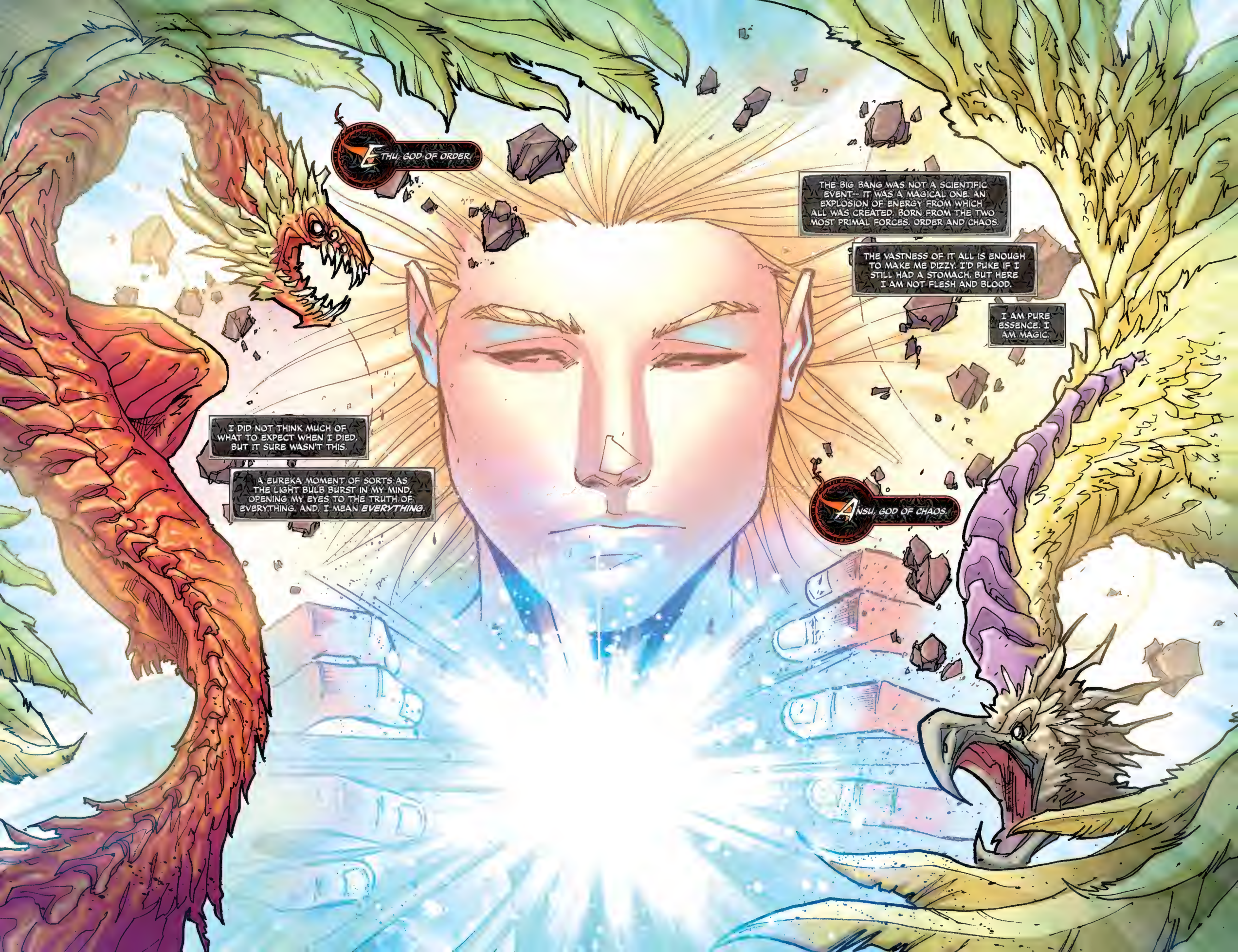


THERE IS
NOTHING CRAZY
ABOUT SUCH A BOND.
OUR SOULS OFTEN
COMMUNICATE IN WAYS
EVEN OUR HEARTS
AND MINDS ARE
UNAWARE OF.

A CONNECTION
THAT CAN EVEN
TRANSCEND TIME
AND SPACE...



...AND
DEATH.



T THUL, GOD OF ORDER

THE BIG BANG WAS NOT A SCIENTIFIC EVENT-- IT WAS A MAGICAL ONE. AN EXPLOSION OF ENERGY FROM WHICH ALL WAS CREATED. BORN FROM THE TWO MOST PRIMAL FORCES, ORDER AND CHAOS.

THE VASTNESS OF IT ALL IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME DIZZY. I'D PUKE IF I STILL HAD A STOMACH. BUT HERE I AM NOT FLESH AND BLOOD.

I AM PURE ESSENCE. I AM MAGIC.

I DID NOT THINK MUCH OF WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN I DIED, BUT IT SURE WASN'T THIS.

A EUREKA MOMENT OF SORTS AS THE LIGHT BULB BURST IN MY MIND, OPENING MY EYES TO THE TRUTH OF EVERYTHING. AND, I MEAN *EVERYTHING*.

A ANSU, GOD OF CHAOS



I AM THE SAMUSARA.
THE CATALYST. THE
HEART OF MAGIC.

SINCE THE BEGINNING, THE POWER
AND THE ENERGY OF MAGIC HAS
EBBED AND FLOWED-- RISING AND
FALLING OVER THE YEARS-- BRINGING
TIMES OF LIGHT AND TIMES OF DARK.

ANCIENT RACES
THRIVED ON ITS
POWER. THE RAHTUMI
AND THE SETHORU.

GREAT BEASTS FED OFF ITS POWER. NONE
MORE SO THAN THE MAJESTIC DRAGONS,
WHO HOLD ALMOST AS SPECIAL OF A
CONNECTION TO THE ESSENCE OF MAGIC
AS THE SAMUSARA ITSELF.

TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH-- THAT
I AM MERELY ONE OF MANY. ONE IN
A LONG LINE OF VESSELS FOR THE
SAMUSARA. STRUGGLING TO REACH
MY POTENTIAL AND BE THAT SPARK
TO REIGNITE THE FIRE OF MAGIC.

AND EVEN THOUGH THE SAMUSARA LIES
AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL, IT CANNOT EXIST
WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE MAGIC AROUND
IT. THE FIVE MASTERS WHO SUPPORT AND
GUIDE THE SOUL'S EFFORT TO REACH
ITS SUMMIT. TO REACH ITS POTENTIAL.

AND YET, AS MUCH AS THAT IS TO
COMPREHEND, THERE IS MORE. UNDER
THE SURFACE OF IT ALL IS ANOTHER
LAYER. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY...

...ANOTHER
TRUTH



AND A CHOICE.

MORE THAN GLIMPSES THROUGH TIME, THESE ARE WINDOWS INTO ALTERNATE REALITIES-- EACH ONE AS REAL AND TRUE AS THE OTHER.

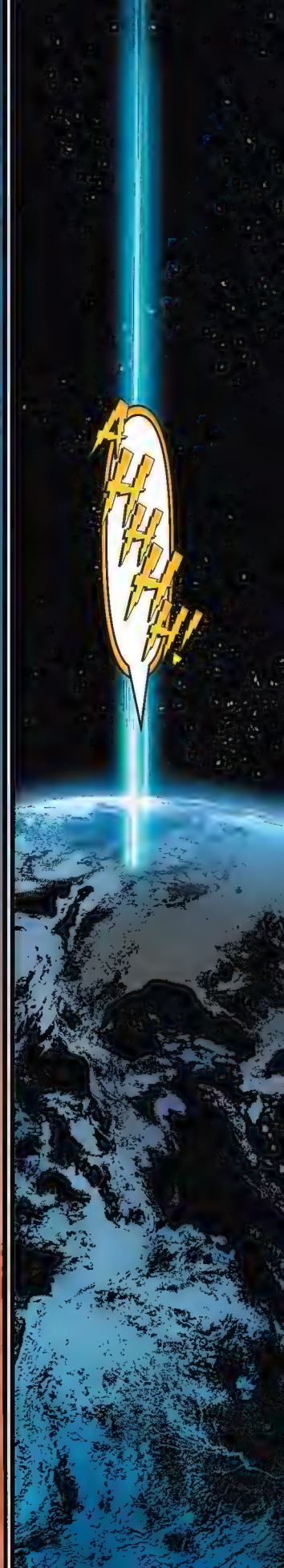


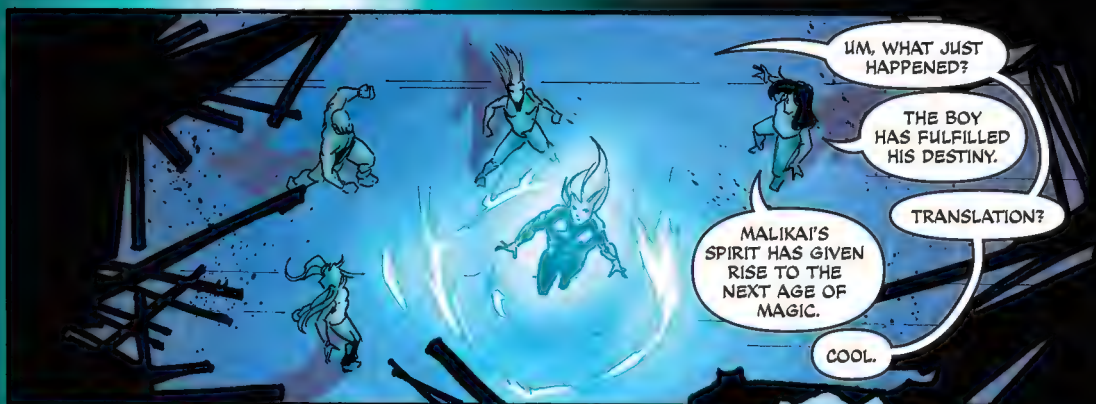
OF ME.

OF THE UNIVERSE.

OF THE FUTURE.

BUT IN THE END, ONLY ONE CAN REMAIN.





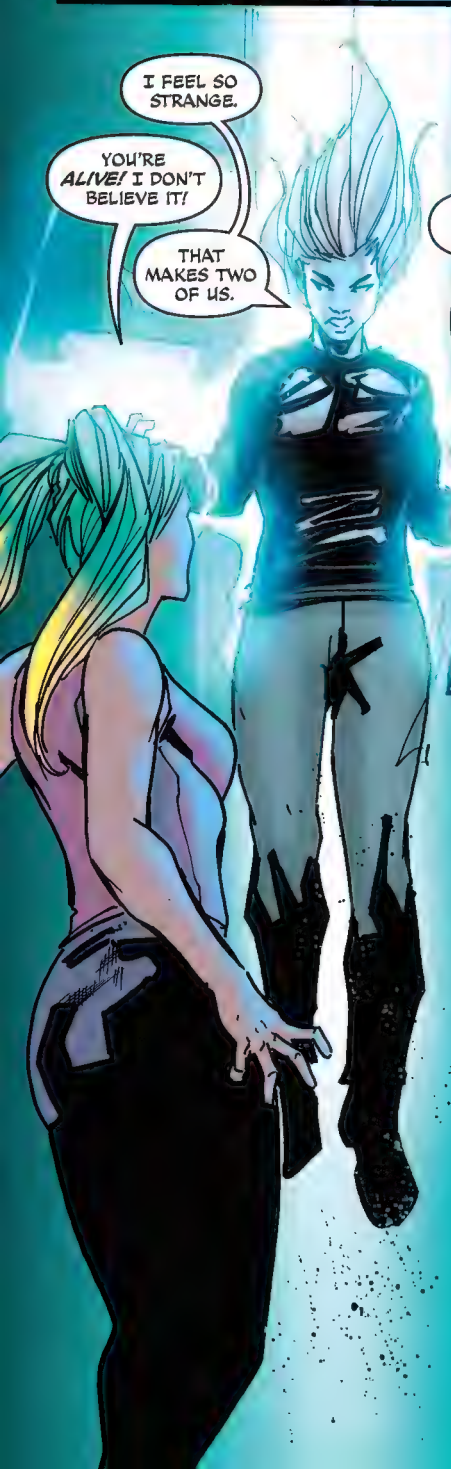
UM, WHAT JUST
HAPPENED?

THE BOY
HAS FULFILLED
HIS DESTINY.

TRANSLATION?

MALIKAI'S
SPIRIT HAS GIVEN
RISE TO THE
NEXT AGE OF
MAGIC.

COOL.



I FEEL SO
STRANGE.

YOU'RE
ALIVE! I DON'T
BELIEVE IT!

THAT
MAKES TWO
OF US.

ENOUGH
OF THIS!

MALIKAI, YOU
KNOW WHAT I HAVE
DONE FOR YOU. YOU
KNOW HOW I HAVE
CARED FOR YOU ALL
THESE YEARS.



HEY!

THIS POWER
YOU WIELD. IT
IS AS MUCH
MINE AS IT IS
YOURS.

RAINIER, THIS
POWER HAS OPENED
MY EYES. I SEE THE
TRUTH. I SEE WHAT
YOU REALLY DESIRE.





W-WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

IT'S
OKAY.

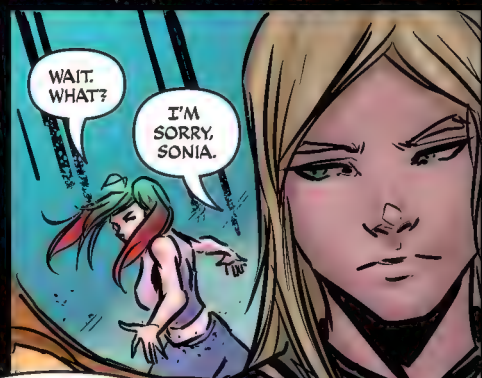


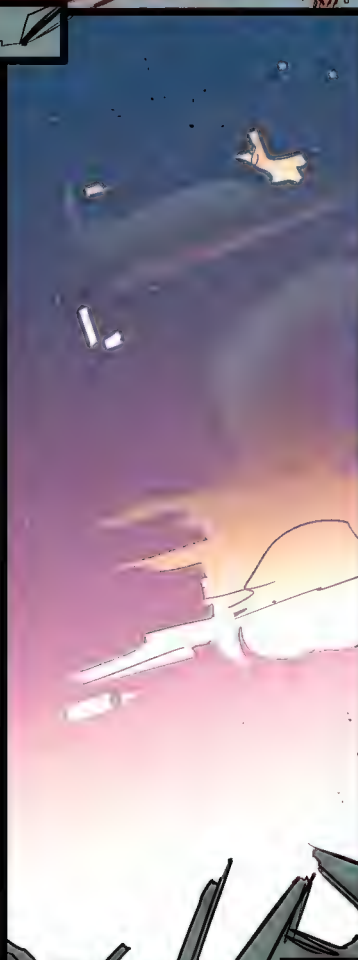
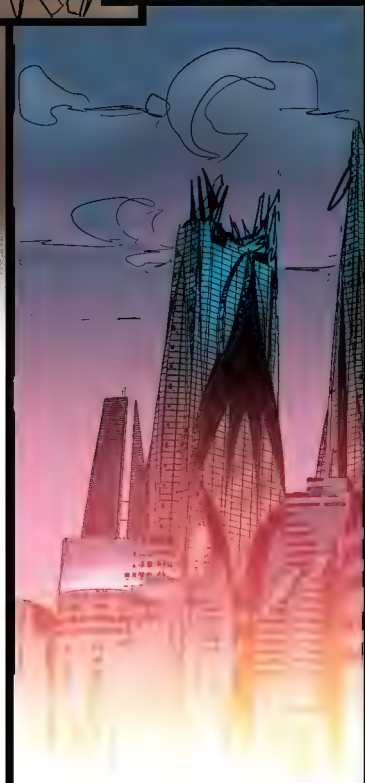
NO!!!

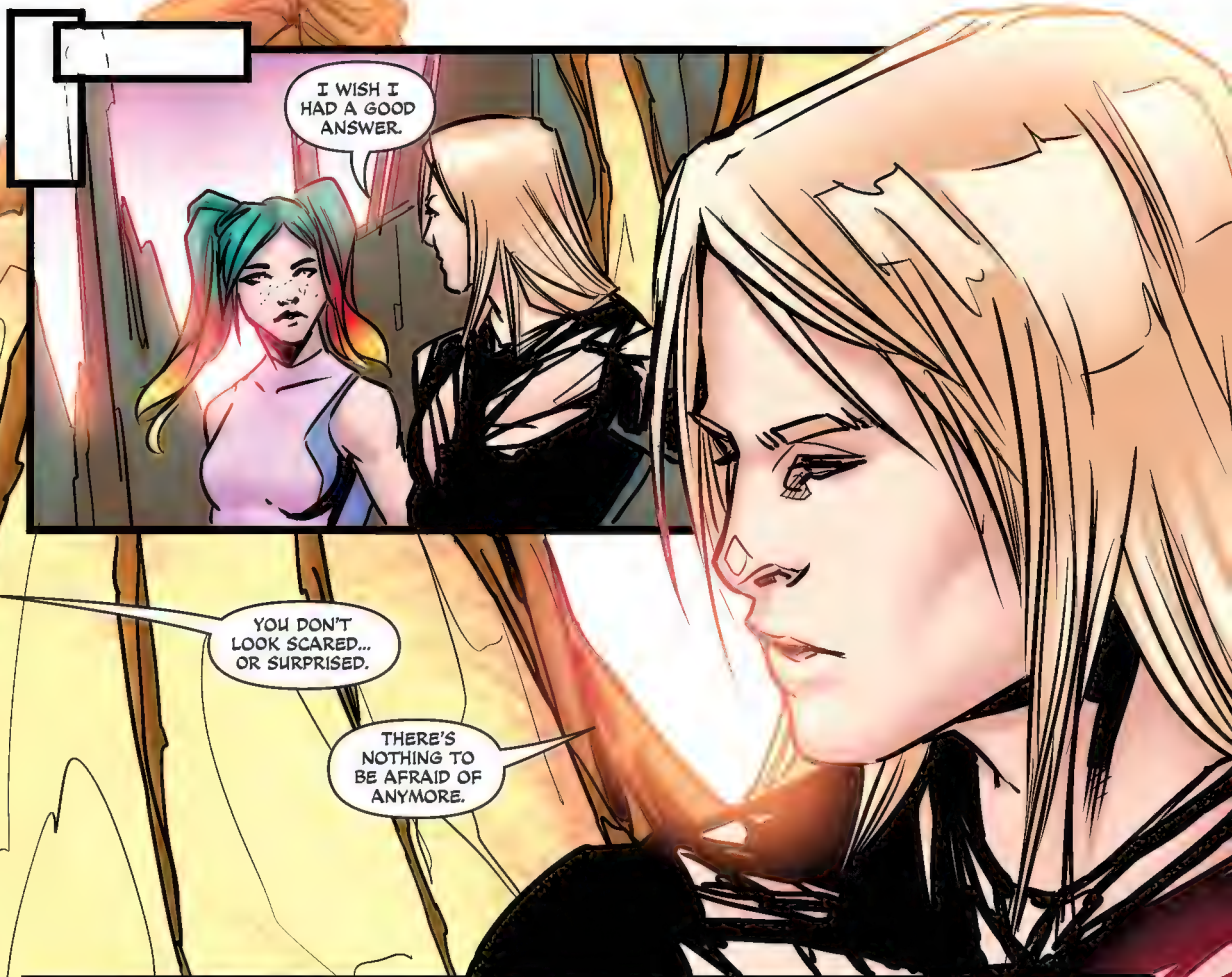
YOU
DO NOT HAVE
TO BE AFRAID
ANYMORE.



YOU JUST BE
YOURSELF.







I WISH I
HAD A GOOD
ANSWER.

YOU DON'T
LOOK SCARED...
OR SURPRISED.

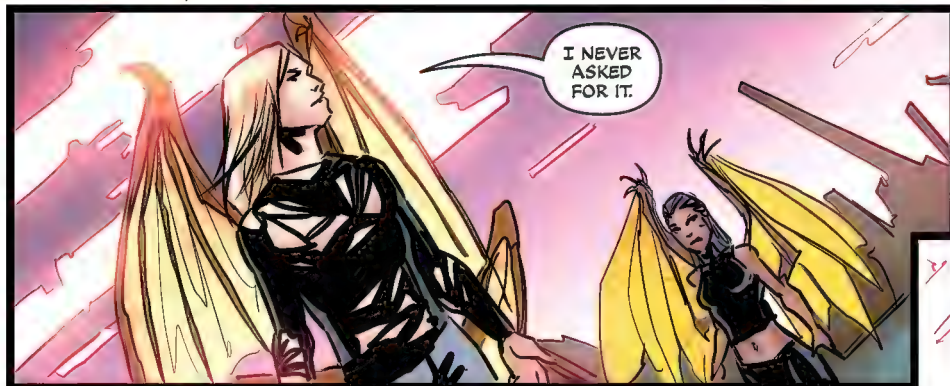
THERE'S
NOTHING TO
BE AFRAID OF
ANYMORE.



LOOKS LIKE
GAME OVER.
FOR REAL.

NOT SURE
WHAT ELSE
YOU WOULD
CALL IT.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
I NEVER INTENDED
FOR ANY OF THIS
TO HAPPEN.

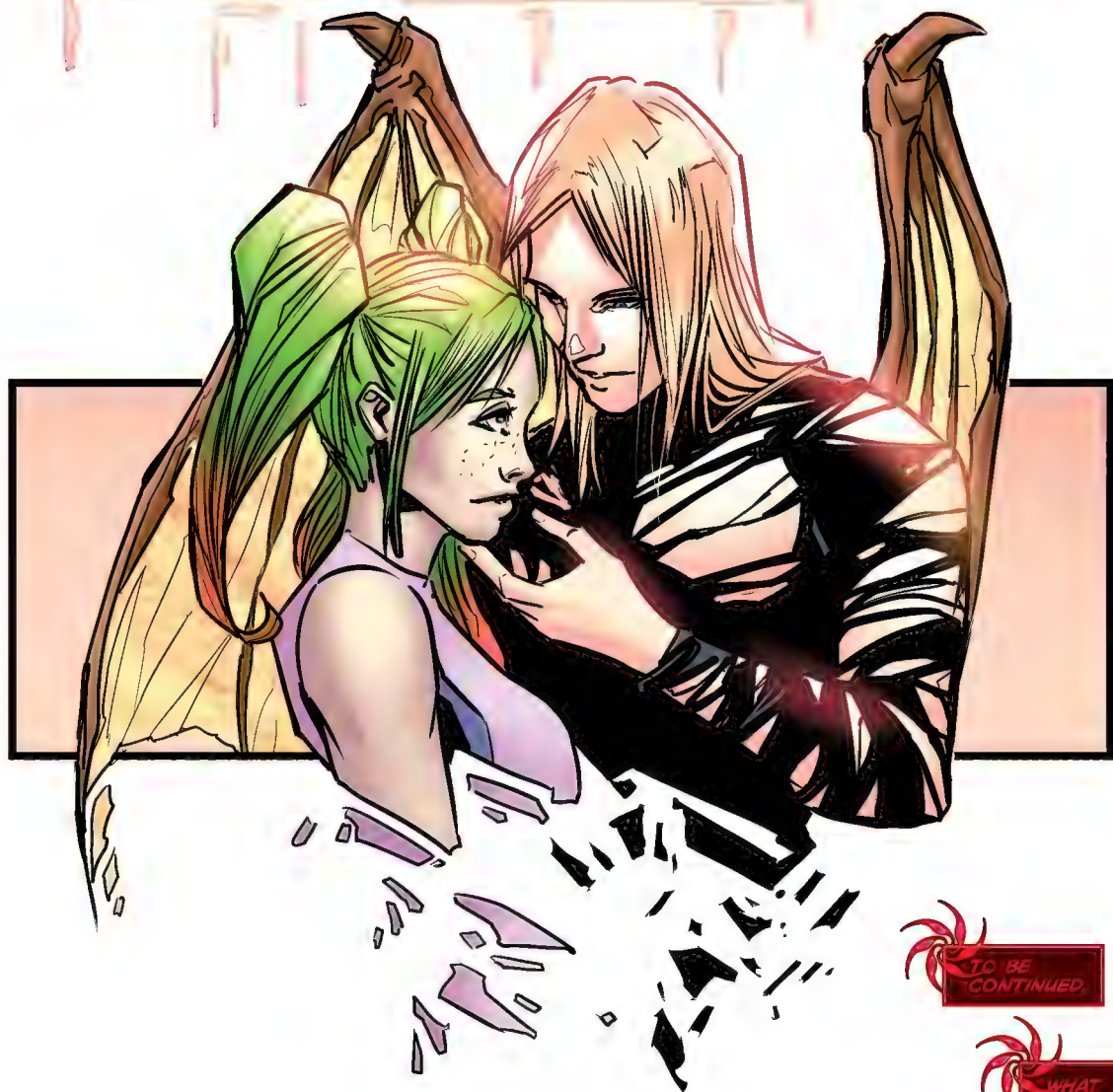


I NEVER
ASKED
FOR IT.



MAL?
ARE WE--

I KNOW.
BUT,
THERE IS
NO OTHER WAY.
THIS WASN'T HOW
THINGS WERE
SUPPOSED
TO BE.



TO BE
CONTINUED

WHAT
COMES
NEXT?



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Vol. 6

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A L L N E W

MICHAEL TURNER'S

SOULFIRE

#8

OF 8
COVER A



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Vol. 6

ALL NEW MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE

#8

OF 8
COVER B



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In a stunning act of sacrifice, Malikai took his own life, abruptly ending the fight at Rainier Tower. Although his friends dismayed at his sudden suicide, they were even more shocked upon Malikai's immediate resurrection from the dead, and destructive ascension through the atmosphere as the Samusara. Malikai then transformed back into his winged form, returning only to seek vengeance to his captor and tormentor, Rainier. Now, the future lies ever more uncertain for the group as they deal with the fallout from these recent cataclysmic events...

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All New Soulfire

PART 8 of 8

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writer

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pencils & inks

Wes Hartman
colors

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letters

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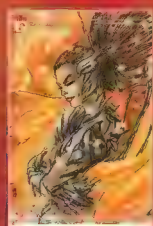
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SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING, WE
HAVE EXAMINED OUR WORLD
AND TRIED TO UNDERSTAND IT.



MORE SPECIFICALLY--
TO UNDERSTAND
OUR PLACE IN IT.



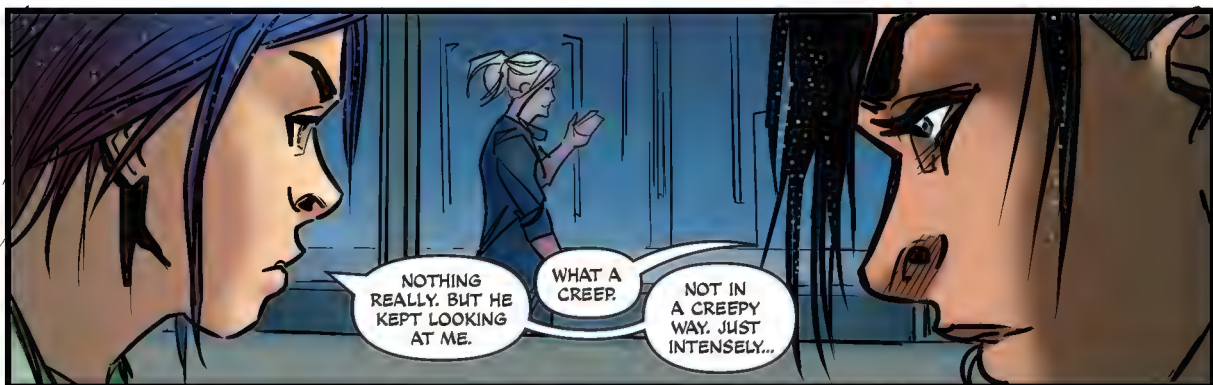
IN THE FACE OF THE STRANGE AND
THE UNKNOWN, WE OBSERVE, ASK
QUESTIONS, SEEK ANSWERS.



AND YET, NO
MATTER WHAT
MYSTERIES
WE SOLVE...

THE WORLD CONTINUES
TO CONVEY A SENSE
OF AWE AND WONDER.







"...LIKE HE COULD SEE
RIGHT THROUGH ME."

LILY AND CASSIDY DON'T
KNOW ME. NEVER MET
ME BEFORE. BUT, I KNOW
THEM. I KNOW A LOT.

LIKE THE FACT THAT
LILY MAY ACT TOUGH,
BUT SHE'S SCARED.
THEY BOTH ARE.

CAN'T BLAME THEM. I WAS SCARED
TOO WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT THE
EXISTENCE OF MAGIC IN THE
WORLD. WHO WOULDN'T BE?

THEY ARE STILL STRUGGLING
TO DEAL WITH BEING PART OF
SUCH A STRANGE NEW WORLD.



AS FOR ME, I'M NOT
JUST A PART OF IT. I'M
THE CENTER OF IT.

I AM THE SAMUSARA. THE
GREAT CATALYST FOR THE MAGIC
IN THIS UNIVERSE. THE SWITCH
THAT TURNS IT ALL ON.



FOR CENTURIES, MY SOUL HAS
WORKED TO REACH ITS TRUE
POTENTIAL. TO BRING ABOUT
A NEW AGE OF MAGIC.

IN THAT TIME, THE WORLD HAS
WAITED-- TRUDGING ALONG
THROUGH THE DARKNESS.



BUT, THE MAGIC IS NEVER
TRULY GONE. ITS LIGHT
MERELY FADES.



EVEN AT ITS WEAKEST, THE MAGIC
IS STILL THERE. GLIMMERING LIKE
FAINT EMBERS OF AN OLD FIRE.

YOU MAY NOT SEE IT, BUT
IT CAN ALWAYS BE FELT.

IT CAN
ALWAYS
INSPIRE.

I'VE DONE
MY PART.

THE LIGHT OF
MAGIC SHINES
AGAIN.

BRIGHT ENOUGH
FOR ALL TO SEE...



...IF ONE KNOWS
WHERE TO LOOK.

GOD, P.J.,
CAN'T YOU
PUT THE TOYS
AWAY FOR
ONE NIGHT?

AGREED,
SONIA. ALL
I SMELL IS
FUMES.

MAYBE YOU
JUST DON'T LIKE
SHARING THE SKIES
WITH OTHERS,
GRACE.

WHAT DO
YOU THINK,
BENOIST?

I THINK YOU'D
BETTER EASE UP
ON THE THROTTLE ON
THOSE THINGS, UNLESS
YOU LIKE YOUR LEGS
AS CHARBROILED
AS YOUR RIBS.



AM I
INTRUDING,
MALIKAI?

NOT AT ALL,
PILI. I WAS JUST
THINKING. THIS WAS
WHERE IT ALL
BEGAN.

MY JOURNEY OF...
SELF-DISCOVERY.
WELL, THIS TIME
AROUND, ANYWAY.

BUT, I
THOUGHT THAT
ROAD FOR YOU
STARTED BACK IN
SAN FRANCISCO?
WHEN YOU MET
GRACE?



TECHNICALLY, I GUESS.
BUT AT THAT POINT, I
WAS ONLY FOLLOWING
GRACE'S LEAD. RUNNING
FOR MY LIFE. NO REAL
DECISION THERE.

HERE THOUGH--
HERE'S WHERE I
TOOK MY FIRST STEPS.
PURPOSEFULLY.
ON MY OWN.



DO YOU
REGRET IT?
ASCENDING
THESE STEPS?

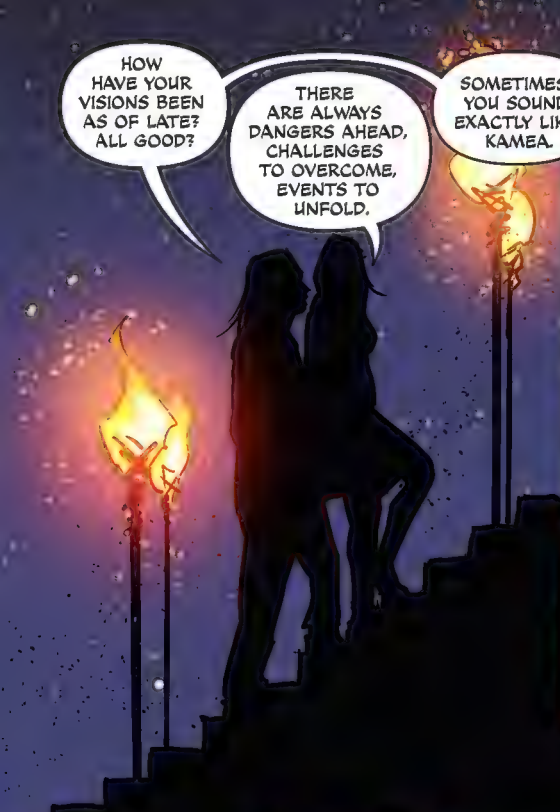
NOT AT
ALL. HOW
COULD I?

THE PATH
WAS SET BEFORE
ME. DESTINY. DID I
EVER REALLY HAVE
A CHOICE? OR WAS
THAT JUST AN
ILLUSION?



THERE
IS ALWAYS
A CHOICE,
MALIKAI.

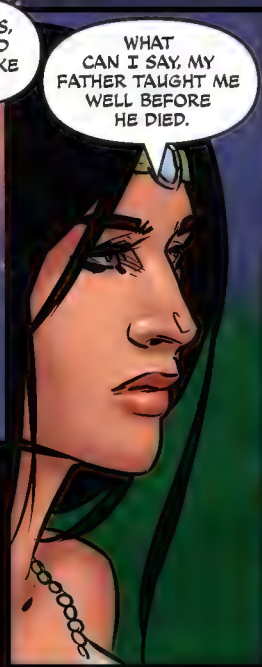
REALLY? COULD
YOU CHOOSE
NOT TO BE
CLAIRVOYANT?



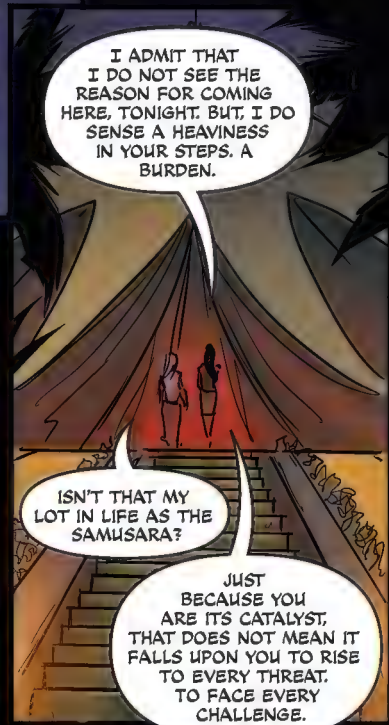
HOW
HAVE YOUR
VISIONS BEEN
AS OF LATE?
ALL GOOD?

THERE
ARE ALWAYS
DANGERS AHEAD,
CHALLENGES
TO OVERCOME,
EVENTS TO
UNFOLD.

SOMETIMES,
YOU SOUND
EXACTLY LIKE
KAMEA.



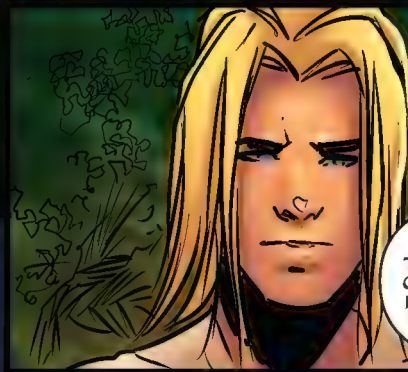
WHAT
CAN I SAY, MY
FATHER TAUGHT ME
WELL BEFORE
HE DIED.



I ADMIT THAT
I DO NOT SEE THE
REASON FOR COMING
HERE, TONIGHT. BUT, I DO
SENSE A HEAVINESS
IN YOUR STEPS. A
BURDEN.

ISN'T THAT MY
LOT IN LIFE AS THE
SAMUSARA?

JUST
BECAUSE YOU
ARE ITS CATALYST,
THAT DOES NOT MEAN IT
FALLS UPON YOU TO RISE
TO EVERY THREAT.
TO FACE EVERY
CHALLENGE.



RETURNING
TO YOUR
QUESTIONING
FROM EARLIER--
NO, I HAD NO
CHOICE IN BEING
CLAIRVOYANT.

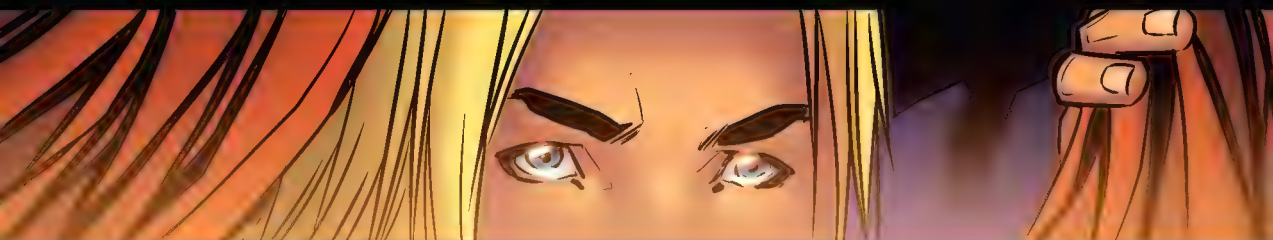
BUT EVEN
THOUGH I WALK
THROUGH A GARDEN
OF POSSIBILITY, I DO
NOT HAVE TO TURN
OVER EVERY ROCK
I SEE.



WELL
SAID.

MAYBE, I
SHOULD USE
THE SAME
STRATEGY.

THOUGH,
IT MAY BE
TOO LATE
FOR ME.



LATE.
EARLY. TIME
IS MERELY A
MATTER OF
PERSPECTIVE,
IS IT NOT,
MALIKAI?



YOU TELL
ME, KAMEA.
DOES THIS MEAN
I AM BEYOND
NOT ONLY TIME,
BUT DEATH
AS WELL?



DOES
PILI KNOW
YOU ARE
HERE?

DOES SHE
KNOW WHERE
SHE WAS? WHAT
HAPPENED? WHAT
DIDN'T HAPPEN?
WHAT ALMOST
HAPPENED?



GOD,
I CAN BARELY
ANSWER THOSE
QUESTIONS.

IS THIS
WHAT BEING
CLAIRVOYANT
IS LIKE? HOW
DO YOU HANDLE
IT? I THINK
I'M GOING
NUTS.

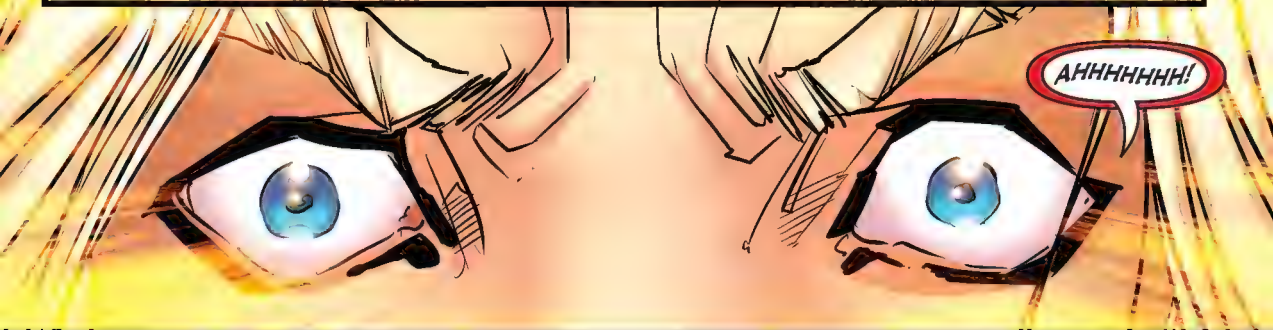
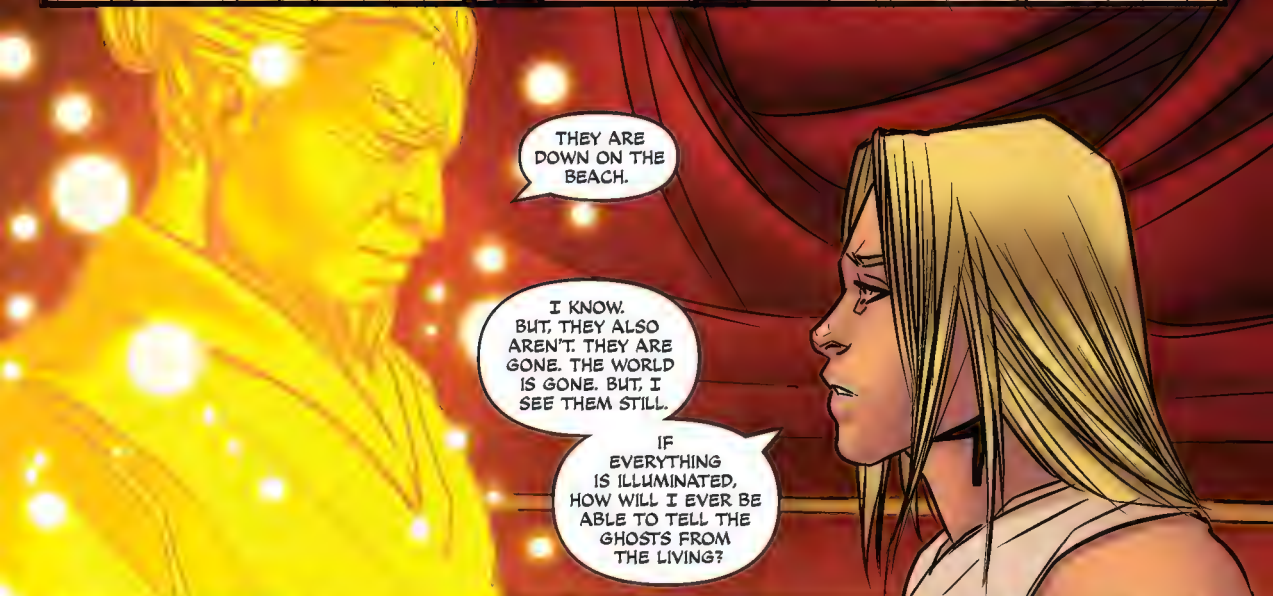
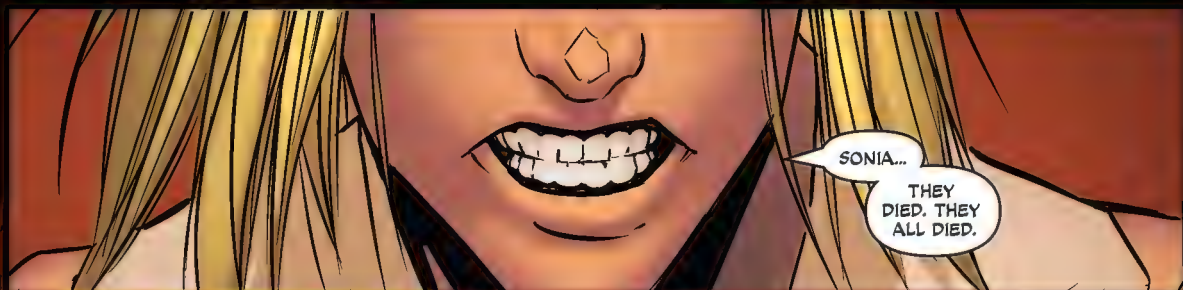
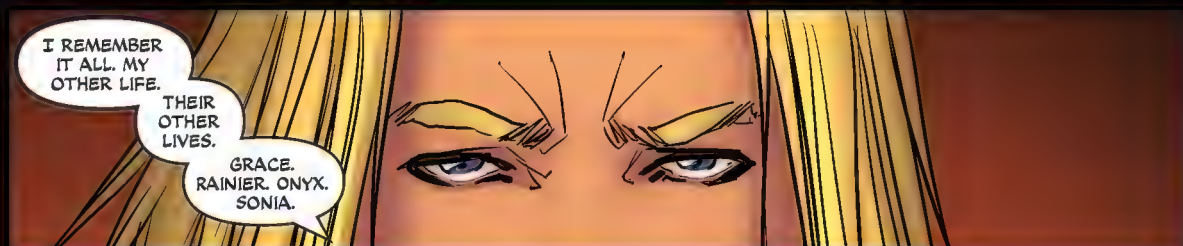


NO. OUR
VISIONS ARE DIM
AT BEST, BUT SOME
GROW BRIGHTER AS
THEIR LIKELIHOOD
INCREASES.

FOR YOU,
THOUGH...



EVERYTHING IS
ILLUMINATED.





PILI,
YOU WANT
TO KNOW
SOMETHING
WEIRD?

EVERY TIME
I'VE COME HERE
AND WALKED THESE
STEPS-- I CAN NEVER
KEEP COUNT. I CAN
NEVER FIGURE OUT
HOW MANY STEPS
THERE ARE TO
THE TEMPLE.

DO YOU
KNOW?

THERE
ARE AS MANY
STEPS AS ARE
NEEDED.

YOU DON'T
ALWAYS HAVE
TO BE CRYPTIC,
YOU KNOW?
QUICK, WHAT'S
TWO PLUS
TWO?

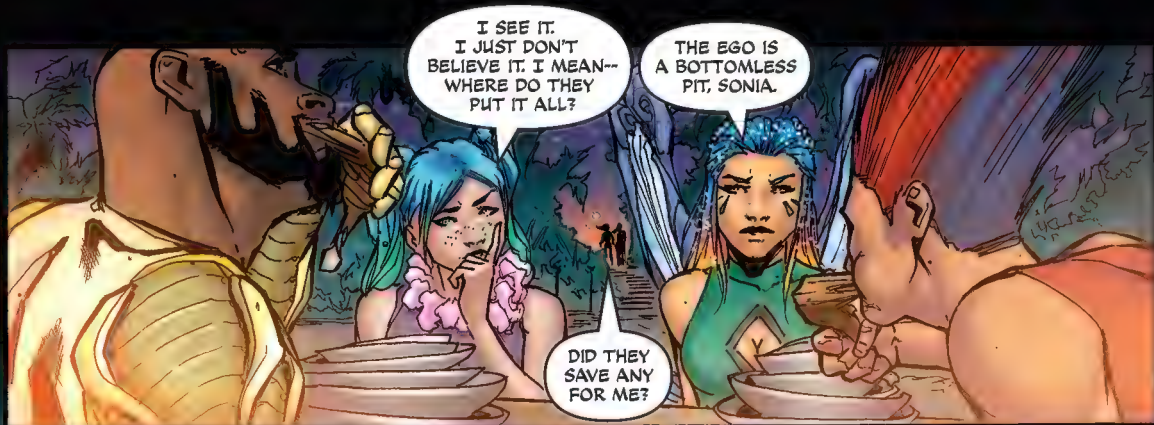
TWO
PLUS TWO
OF WHAT?

WELL
PLAYED.

COME
ON, I'M
HUNGRY.

DID YOU
FIND THE ANSWERS
YOU WERE SEEKING
UP THERE?

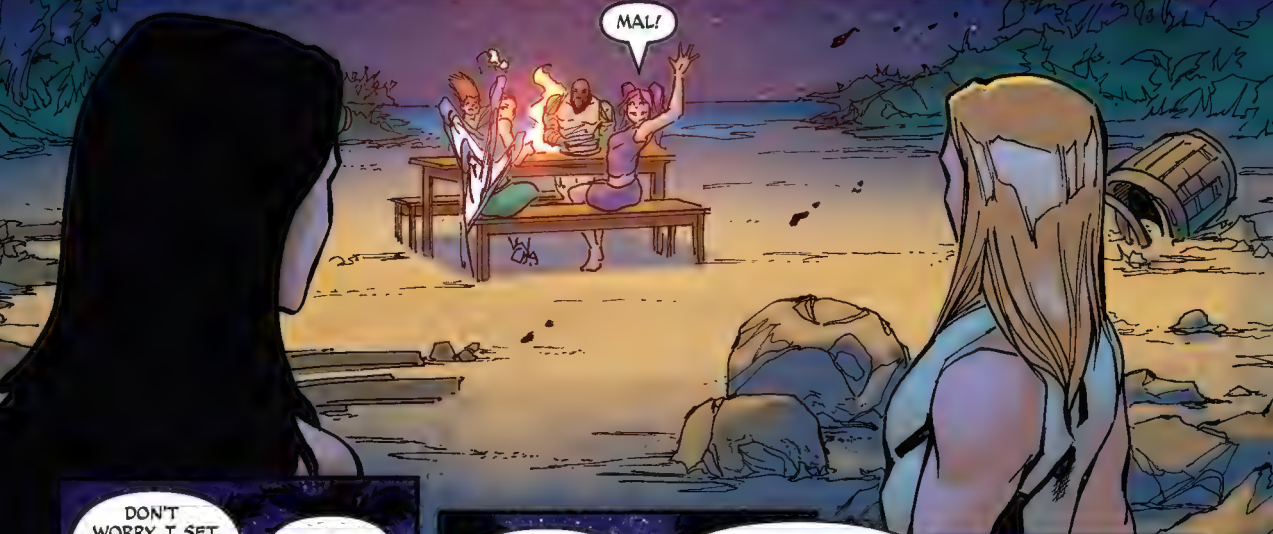
ACTUALLY,
NO. I DON'T THINK
SO. BUT, SOMETHING
TELLS ME THAT MAY
HAVE BEEN THE
POINT.



I SEE IT.
I JUST DON'T
BELIEVE IT. I MEAN--
WHERE DO THEY
PUT IT ALL?

THE EGO IS
A BOTTOMLESS
PIT, SONIA.

DID THEY
SAVE ANY
FOR ME?

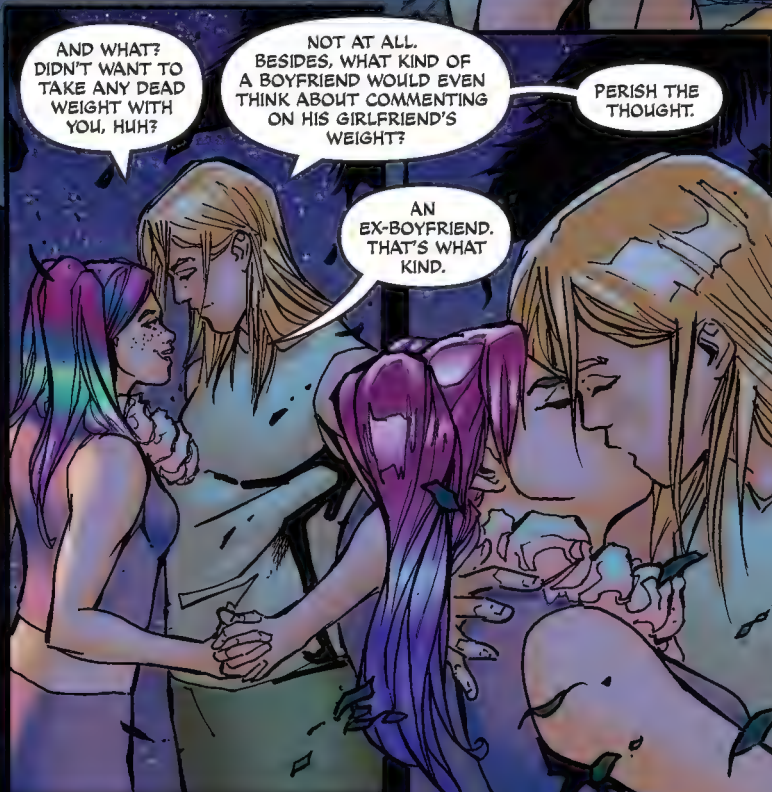


MAL!



DON'T
WORRY, I SET
A PLATE ASIDE
FOR YOU. WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN?

NOWHERE,
REALLY.
WANDERING
ABOUT.



AND WHAT?
DIDN'T WANT TO
TAKE ANY DEAD
WEIGHT WITH
YOU, HUH?

NOT AT ALL.
BESIDES, WHAT KIND
OF A BOYFRIEND
WOULD EVEN
THINK ABOUT COMMENTING
ON HIS GIRLFRIEND'S
WEIGHT?

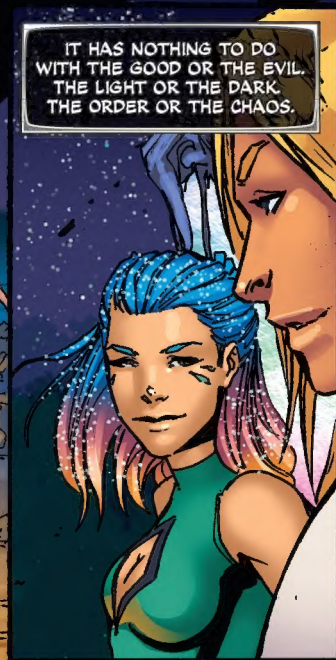
PERISH THE
THOUGHT.

AN
EX-BOYFRIEND.
THAT'S WHAT
KIND.

IN A WAY, MAGIC IS LIKE
FIRE. IT GROWS AND DIMINISHES.
IT CAN BE STRONG OR WEAK.
CONSTRUCTIVE OR DESTRUCTIVE.

IT IS ENERGY,
PURE AND SIMPLE.

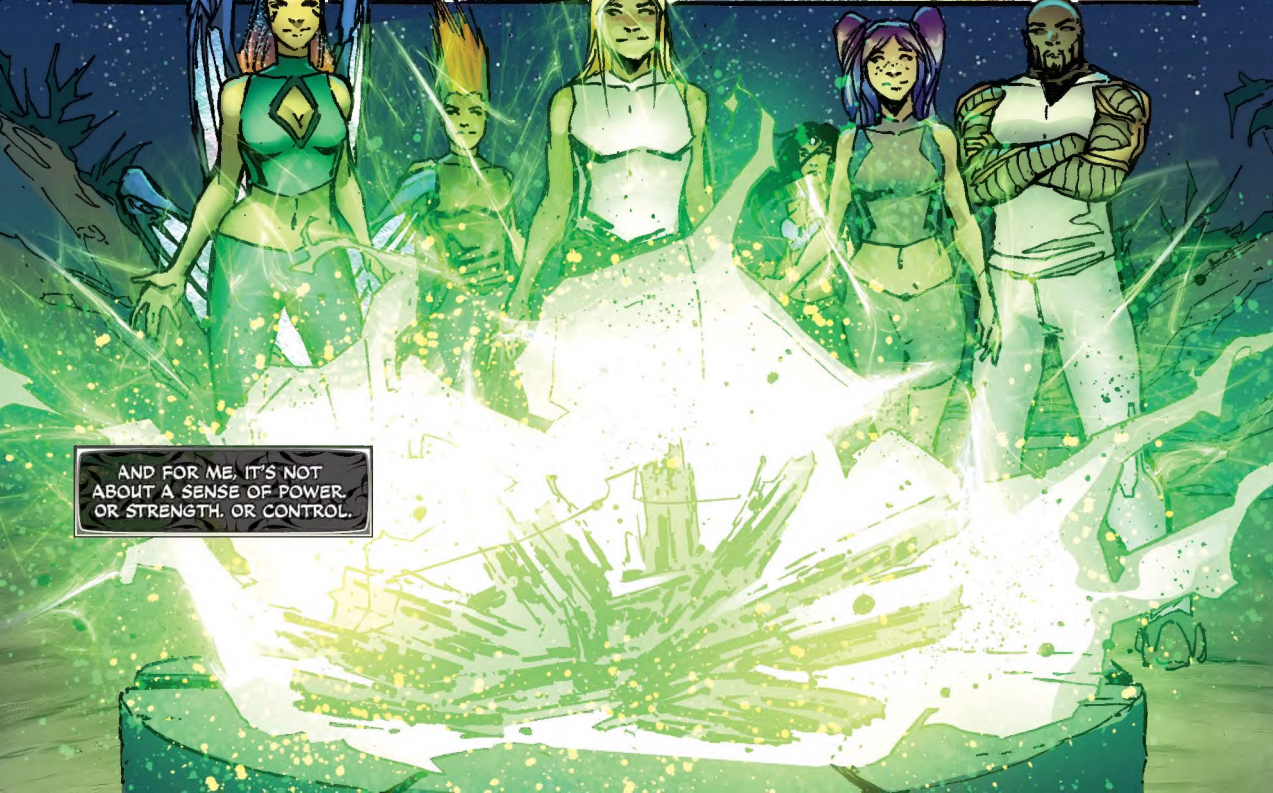
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO
WITH THE GOOD OR THE EVIL.
THE LIGHT OR THE DARK.
THE ORDER OR THE CHAOS.



THAT IS A RESULT OF WHAT
THE MAGIC INSTILLS INSIDE OF
EACH OF US. THAT'S THE KEY.



AND FOR ME, IT'S NOT
ABOUT A SENSE OF POWER.
OR STRENGTH. OR CONTROL.



WHAT THE MAGIC
BRINGS TO ME...

...IS A SENSE
OF HOPE.





YOU
ALREADY
BORED WITH ALL
THIS MAGIC
STUFF?